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No.436 January 30, 2011

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'TICKETS IRRELEVANT IT'S SAVING LIVES THAT COUNTS'

By **MARIJKE COX**

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ONLY a quarter of the county's speed cameras are actually working, it has been revealed.

Of Kent's 76 fixed safety cameras just one in four contains live film, with a massive 75 per cent just empty units put in place to deter drivers from speeding.

Nationally around 47 per cent are operational at any one time, but only 25 per cent are working in Kent.

In 2009, 30,911 speeding tickets were issued in the county, costing drivers a total of £2 million in fines.

A report commissioned by the RAC in November found that if all speed cameras were switched off nationally there would be 800 more people killed or seriously injured on UK roads.

The study by consumer watchdog Which? found three quarters of fixed cameras in Kent were duds.

Katherine Barrett, from the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership, said the report was correct.

"It is true that one in four cameras have live film in them at any one time but all the cameras are 'working' in that they are reducing casualties at those specific sites, which is their main objective," she said.

"All safety cameras have live film in them at some point; however, priority goes to those sites where casualties and/or offence levels are higher.

"If a camera does not contain film, it will have a dummy unit in it which flashes just above the speed limit as a deterrent and reminder to drivers."

Ms Barrett said there was no incentive to put live film in all the cameras as it would be too expensive.

"The camera being at the side of the road is often enough of a deterrent to stop people speeding," she said.

"It is irrelevant to us how many tickets are issued – as long as casualties and speeds are reduced, that camera is doing its job.

"We are happy to publish the fact

Continued on page two

DUMMY: A quarter of cameras will flash but contain no film

Cricketers face a tough summer

ROB Key expects this summer will be the most challenging of his 14 years at St Lawrence as Kent look to compete with a threadbare squad.

A tight budget means the Kent captain will not have an overseas player to call upon as the county attempt to win promotion in the County Championship and battle for one-day glory.

Key admits it is difficult to gauge what lies ahead, but hopes the lack of options will be used by some of the squad's youngsters as an opportunity to have a big year.

FULL STORY – SEE SPORT

Protestors take fuel fight to MPs

MOTORING guru Quentin Willson has joined the Kent campaign fighting rocketing petrol prices.

Fair Fuel UK, organised by Lib Dem Shepway councillor Peter Carroll, this week handed in protest letters to every MP demanding action to curb soaring prices at the forecourt pump.

The campaigners were joined by Willson, who told KoS: "If something isn't done soon, it will destabilise the whole economy.

"The soaring cost of fuel is damaging businesses the length and breadth of the UK."

FULL STORY – PAGE 9

Satisfactory vote for Southeastern

KENT'S controversial train company Southeastern has suffered a barrage of criticism over the last month.

But this week the company received a shot in the arm after a survey showed the majority of passengers were satisfied with the service.

MPs have criticised the company's figures which said it reached performance targets, and said the firm should lose its franchise.

But the National Passenger Survey showed 80 per cent of train users were satisfied with the service provided by the operator.

FULL STORY – PAGE 7

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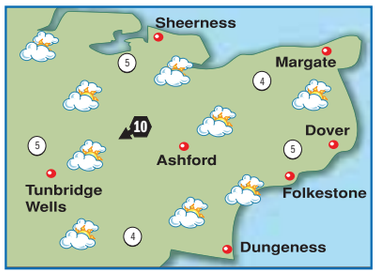
Kent today



TODAY: Dry, but rather cloudy with just a few sunny spells. A dry, but mainly cloudy evening. Very cold again with a gentle north-easterly wind. Less cold. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F). **TONIGHT:** Mainly cloudy, but staying dry. Moderate north-easterly winds. Cold. Min temp -2 to 1C (28-34F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	5	41	London	cloudy	6	43
Belfast	sun	3	37	Liverpool	cloudy	5	41
Birmingham	cloudy	4	39	Manchester	cloudy	4	39
B'mouth	cloudy	5	41	Newcastle	fair	5	41
Bristol	cloudy	4	39	Norwich	cloudy	5	41
Cardiff	cloudy	5	41	Oxford	cloudy	4	39
Cork	fair	4	39	Southsea	cloudy	6	43
Edinburgh	cloudy	5	41	S'hampton	cloudy	5	41
Glasgow	cloudy	6	43	Southport	cloudy	5	41
Isle of Man	fair	6	43	Swansea	fair	5	41
Leeds	cloudy	4	39	Torquay	cloudy	4	39

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.38am	Sunset	4.40pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	5.17am	Moonset	12.59pm	4.40pm to 7.36am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	08.01	5.6	20.42	5.6	09.11	5.8	21.38	5.9
Margate	08.54	4.1	21.32	4.1	10.07	4.2	22.35	4.3
St Mary's	01.33	4.6	14.12	4.5	02.41	4.8	15.12	4.8

Week ahead

monday Cloudy. Dry. max 5C min -1C

tuesday Cloudy. Dry. max 6C min 0C

wednesday Sunny spells. max 6C min 0C

thursday Light rain. max 6C min 1C

friday Drizzle. max 7C min 1C

saturday Cloudy. Dry. max 7C min 2C

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Decision expected in battle to save school upgrading projects

EDUCATION chiefs at County Hall have been at the High Court all week to challenge the Government over the scrapping of the Building Schools for the Future programme, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Kent County Council is fighting education secretary Michael Gove's decision to axe the scheme at schools in advanced stages of the process, arguing it could leave the county's taxpayers with a massive £10 million bill in liabilities.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter told KoS last month he was not disputing the move to scrap the "extravagant" BSF programme, but was challenging the decision to stop progress on schools which were just months away from undergoing work.

Unfairly

"By cancelling these projects we have a liability to pay building contractors' aborted fees which may add up to £10m," he said.

Tory-run KCC brought the case to the High Court alongside five Labour-run councils – Waltham Forest, Luton, Nottingham, Sandwell Metropolitan, and Newham.

They argued that Government acted "unfairly and unlawfully" and that stopping the building, rebuilding and refurbishing of projects in their areas was arbitrary and legally flawed. The local authorities have asked Mr Justice Holman to order the education secretary to reconsider individual schemes.

A decision was expected yesterday, although a KCC spokesman said a reserve decision could be made where the judge would go away and review evidence, delivering the verdict at a later date.

The celebrated £55 billion Building Schools for the Future scheme was introduced by Labour in 2003 in a bid to improve every secondary school in the country.

Kent's overall programme – the largest building scheme in Europe – was worth an estimated £1.8bn and County Hall officials believed it could transform 21st century education.

Eleven schools were built or refurbished under the programme.

Others which were preparing for refurbishments were told in July last year it would not be happening.

Ten of the schools were in advanced stages of the scheme, with work due to start on some within months of the announcement that the project was being scrapped.

KCC argued it was unfair schools so far into the process had the work cancelled, and said it would cost millions in liabilities.

A County Hall spokesman said: "The programme was complex and, at the time that it was stopped, more than 40 Kent schools were affected. These were at various stages of development, with some complete and others close to starting construction.

"Both the council and its partners have invested significant resources in the programme and cancellation exposes council taxpayers in Kent to substantial liabilities.

"Having exhausted all other avenues, we are now progressing with a judicial review. This review is of the decision to stop the Building Schools for the Future programme."

A Department for Education spokesman said the scheme was "unnecessarily complex, poor value for money and unaffordable in the economic climate".

Robust

He added: "In none of the cases are these local authorities challenging the wider decision to end BSF.

"We are robustly defending the claims made by the local authorities and believe we have a strong case.

"The coalition government has been clear that the end of BSF is not the end of school rebuilding.

"That's why we have launched a comprehensive review of all capital spending so that school building can be done more efficiently and quickly."

News and sport updated daily online www.kentnews.co.uk

'Cameras do not do a lot for road safety'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

that 25 per cent of safety cameras in the county are live at any one time and cannot imagine that anyone would want to actually run the risk of seeing which ones are not."

Several county councils in the UK have scrapped speed cameras due to funding cuts from Government.

Kent County Council revealed last year it was reviewing the effectiveness of its speed cameras, although it denied there were immediate plans to scrap them.

An RAC spokesman said the organisation's own study suggested moves to take cameras away would be a mistake.

"They save lives and demonstrate value for money and most people accept the need for them," he said.

But the Association of British Drivers said they wanted the cameras scrapped altogether.

Kent spokesman Ian Taylor said: "We have always said that these cameras do not do a lot for road safety. Money needs to be spent on making driver training better.

"It's very interesting that only a quarter of the cameras actually have film in them now there is less funding. It seems to be more about politics."

Mr Taylor added: "The Association of British Drivers would like to see all speed cameras gone and more proactive work towards road safety."

A spokesman from Which? said people were probably unaware that some fixed speed cameras did not contain film.

He added: "The chances of being caught depend on where you are driving."

Kent has 76 fixed safety cameras and 60 mobile camera van sites.

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Football sexism is 'a step in the wrong direction'

By MARIJKE COX
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A RISING star in football refereeing has branded sexist Sky pundits "backward thinking" and warned they had taken the sport a step in the wrong direction.

Former Charlton ladies player Chloe Petts said she was angered by Andy Gray and Richard Keys' off-air rant ahead of last Saturday's Liverpool versus Wolves match.

The long-serving commentators – thinking their microphones were off – made sexist remarks about explaining the offside rule to female assistant referee Sian Massey.

Days later more footage emerged of Gray making sexist comments with Sky Sports touchline reporter Andy Burton, who was suspended from appearing at the Carling Cup semi-final on Wednesday.

Miss Petts, from Sittingbourne, said: "At first I thought it must have been said tongue in cheek but when I actually heard it I realised they actually genuinely believed what they were saying.

"I think what they said was very backward thinking and a step in the wrong direction for women in football."

Keys phoned Miss Massey to apologise for his remarks the day he was exposed.

Both were hauled off air for Monday's Bolton Wanderers versus Chelsea match.

But yet more footage emerged of Gray and Keys making inappropriate comments about female Sky colleagues.

On Tuesday Gray was sacked and on Thursday Keys resigned.

Ahead of the sacking, Miss Petts said to take that kind of disciplinary action would be quite extreme: "They should be given a hefty fine and I think it was right they were not allowed to commentate on Monday's match.

"I think the shame is enough punishment for them though. Imagine how Andy Gray will feel coming back to commentate?"

The Highsted Grammar School pupil said she had experienced sexism in football and questioned how people thought they could get away with it.

"I was told that I was just as bad as the last woman referee," she said. "I was really angry. I had refereed a good game.

"I've run the line for a black referee and racist comments were made. Or for an overweight ref comments are also made. It's not just sexism – it's people thinking they can get one up on the ref.

"Making a mistake is nothing to do with gender – all referees can make mistakes."

Tory MP for Chatham and Aylesford Tracey Crouch, who is an FA qualified football coach and manager, called the sexist comments ignorant, stupid and naïve.

"They spend most of their time in their commentary box looking at Premier League games and not actually seeing the thousands of women playing or officiating football matches up and down the country every weekend," she said. "There has been a revolution in the women's game.

"I think they should be made to commentate on all future women's internationals and Premiership games."

Ms Crouch, who coaches Meridian Girls Under-13s in Chatham, started playing football when she was eight-years-old and played competitively while at university.

Sports minister and MP for Faversham and Mid-Kent Hugh Robertson said he was disappointed to hear the comments at a time when the country is trying to get more women participating and officiating in sport.

OUTCRY: Commentator Andy Gray has been sacked for his sexist remarks, football coach and MP Tracey Crouch said the comments were ignorant

Kate Middleton kicked off site

A MOTHER from Pembury has been booted off social networking website Facebook – for having the same name as royal bride-to-be Kate Middleton.

Just to add salt in the wound, our Kate saw her account suspended, despite having it active for two years.

She was stunned to be barred from using her account and be accused of impersonating the fiancée of Prince William.

Kent's Ms Middleton had tried to send a message to friends, only to be told her account had been closed as she was an impostor.

She said: "They said I couldn't use my name because I was impersonating someone famous, which I'm not, as I am Kate Middleton."

Ms Middleton has been waiting to see if Facebook would reactivate her account. A spokesman for the site admitted it makes the occasional mistake.

Temple charity thief locked up

A BURGLAR who stole money from a Sikh Temple's charity box has been jailed for two years and six months.

Patrick Delaney, of no fixed address, broke into the Byron Road Gurdwara in Gillingham on September 27, last year.

Officers found the 40-year-old in the toilets holding a bag with loose coins in it.

The cash is thought to have been taken from a charity box that had been forced open.

A number of items taken from an upstairs flat were also found in a garden next door.

Delaney had sneaked into the premises earlier that day and assaulted a man who confronted him.

The thief kicked the man, who fell down some stairs.

Delaney pleaded guilty to charges of burglary and assault and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court.

£500m gas power plant approved for Isle of Grain

THE GOVERNMENT has approved plans for a new gas-fired power station to generate enough energy to supply almost 1.5 million homes.

Energy minister Charles Hendry gave company Scottish Power the go ahead to build the plant near Hoo on the Isle of Grain in Medway, next to the existing gas-fired Damhead Creek station.

The development is expected to cost around £500 million. The existing station powers one million households.

Scottish Power said the plant would support up to 1,000 construction jobs over three years and, when operational, would create 50 skilled jobs.

Mr Hendry said it would be one of the most efficient plants in the world and be carbon capture ready.

MP for Rochester and Strood, Mark Reckless, welcomed the announcement.

He said: "There has been a growing need to improve the South East's energy security for some time. This will be one of the most efficient power plants in the world, and produce relatively low CO2 emissions.

"Given the rural nature of the Hoo Peninsula, particularly the Marshes Special Protection Area, it is reassuring to hear that Natural England has confirmed that the proposed development will not adversely affect the local environment."

Mr Reckless said he welcomed the commitment form Scottish Power to provide employment for local residents.

"Particularly in light of the closure of Kingsnorth due to overbearing EU regulations," he added.

"After years of dithering under the last government we are now taking the steps needed to secure our country's future energy supply whilst providing new jobs locally."

But Steve Dawe, of the Kent Green Party, said other alternatives should have been looked at.

He said: It is going to last longer than oil and there are more potential sources, but the problem with this particular power station is they don't seem to have looked at alternatives.

"They could have looked at greater energy efficiency in general. Looking at renewable energy for the site hasn't been done."

To view, search 'Spirit' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

P&O has unveiled its biggest-ever cross-Channel ferry, the Spirit of Britain. Yourkenttv.co.uk went to Dover to find out more

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Bedgebury Pinetum may be sold

Development fears as forests put up for sale

A CAMPAIGN to save forests including Bedgebury Pinetum from being sold-off into private ownership is gaining momentum, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

Kent Green Party has accused the Government of "environmental vandalism" and concerns have been raised that people will no longer be able to access the woods, which many fear are also in danger of being redeveloped.

Around 1,500 forests, stretching over 250,000 hectares are managed by the Forestry Commission including Bedgebury near Goudhurst, Hemsted Forest near Benenden, Kings Wood near Wye, Clowes Wood near Canterbury and Lyminge Blocks.

The Government has already pledged to sell 15 per cent of the public forest estate by 2015 and a consultation was launched on Thursday to decide the future of the remaining 85 per cent.

The plans have sparked outrage and a national survey by the campaign group 38 Degrees found that 84 per cent of people polled wanted forests kept in public ownership.

Launching the consultation, Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman said historic forests such as the New Forest would be protected and transferred to charitable trusts.

Uncertainty

But the future of forests like Bedgebury remains uncertain. Asked whether it would fall into the so-called 'heritage forest' category, a spokesman said: "It is not entirely clear. It has a multi-purpose use with commercial timber extraction as well as the national pinetum, which has the world's best collection of conifers. It is certainly possible and we would hope so."

Malcolm Dove, from Friends of Bedgebury Pinetum, said: "If it is passed to a commercial company, and they might build houses, you are going to lose all of the history."

Campaign group 38 Degrees' Save Our Forests petition, which is supported by the Bedgebury friends, is growing fast and approaching 200,000.

Stuart Jeffery, chair of the Kent Green Party, said: "Selling off national forests is simply environmental vandalism."

Mrs Spelman added: "State control of forests dates back to the First World War, when needs were very different. There's now no reason for the Government to be in the business of timber production and forest management. And we will make sure that public access is maintained and biodiversity protected."

To see this clip search 'Bateman' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

A vintage clothing store is to open in Sandwich with the help of Big Brother's 'Nasty' Nick Bateman

Port Lympne gorilla becomes an internet sensation

Walk like a man

Picture: KEVIN JENNER

By **NICK AMES**
nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk

AMBAM the silverback gorilla is fast achieving great fame – because he walks on two legs like a man.

An 18-second piece of footage of the beast walking upright on his hind legs like a human has become a YouTube sensation.

More then 200,000 people have viewed the clip and visitors to Port Lympne Wildlife Park have been fascinated as the 21-year-old male – who weighs 34 stone – strides through his enclosure.

The footage on the internet was filmed by animal researcher Johanna Watson while she was working for a project on great ape locomotion.

Gorillas usually get around by 'knuckle walking' using the padding on their front hands to support their huge weight. However they can stand on two feet to reach branches and walk short distances. Ambam has managed more than a few steps.

Gorilla keeper Ingrid Naisby said: "He's always liked to stand up. It's about getting his balance right and he's well practiced. He has perfected it."

Ambam was born at Port Lympne's sister park, Howletts near Canterbury and is the largest gorilla at the park, standing 6ft.

Keeper Phil Ridges added: "We think he might use it to get a height advantage when keepers come to feed him and standing up can also help him in looking for food generally as it gives him a better vantage point.

"Ambam can also carry a lot more food if he stands and uses both hands and walking on two feet also means he doesn't get his hands wet when it is raining.

"He was hand-raised for a few months when he was a year old because he became very ill and as a last resort he had to be taken away from his mother Shumba. He came over to Port Lympne when he was seven or eight years old.

"Ambam's father Bitam used to display the same behaviour if he had handfuls of food to carry. He also has a full sister, Tamba, and a half sister at Howletts, who also sometimes stand and walk in the same way."

This week Howletts Wild Animal Park has launched a new one-day ticket that allows visitors to come back for a year for free.

The cost of the Howletts Passport is currently £18.95 for an adult and £14.95 for a child, with concessions available.

Bob O'Connor, managing director of Howletts and Port Lympne said: "The idea is to give something back to our regular supporters by allowing them to enjoy our facilities time after time at no extra cost.

"Howletts is an action packed day out, but the park is also an ideal place just to meet friends for a coffee or pop in with the kids for an hour. There will be different events running throughout the year and many new arrivals so we hope to see our passport holders on a regular basis."

Cash in duvet seized by cops

A MAN has been forced to hand over 17,000 euros to the police – despite never having been charged with an offence.

Mikedad Mkhon, 37, from Thamesmead was stopped from leaving the UK via Ebbsfleet International Station on July 15 last year.

In his luggage was a duvet, still in its original wrappings. Hidden inside were several blocks of cash.

Mkhon admitting knowing about a "few hundred euros", he said was for buying designer items. He was arrested at Ebbsfleet and taken to Northfleet Police Station but was not charged.

Now Kent Police have successfully made a forfeiture application at Folkestone Magistrates Court and have seized the cash after Mkhon was unable to give a reasonable explanation for having the large amount of money on him.

The sum is now worth £15,334 including interest.

Det Insp Mark Fairhurst said: "This is not the normal behaviour of the travelling public."

SEVEN illegal immigrants have been caught in raids across Kent.

The raids took place at cafés and restaurants in Ramsgate, Gravesend and Sittingbourne and were based on intelligence of illegal working at four businesses, which could now face large fines for employing illegal workers.

A woman and two men from China, an Iraqi male, and two Bangladeshi men were all found to be working illegally. All were placed on immigration bail and must report regularly while the UK Border Agency works towards their removal from the UK.

Karyn Dunning, of the UK Border Agency in Kent, said: "We are sending a simple message to immigration offenders – more raids are planned and you will be caught."

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THE INTERVIEW

BY NICK AMES

THE true life crimes of Jack the Ripper shocked Victorian London with their brutality and exert a fascination for many mystery enthusiasts to this day.

The fact that no-one has ever been identified beyond doubt as the killer adds to the macabre interest in a shadowy figure stalking helpless women through the maze of slums which comprised 19th century Whitechapel.

Likewise the character of Sherlock Holmes has continued to appeal, with last year seeing a very 21st century BBC take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 'consulting detective' who lived at 221b Baker Street in an era of hansom cabs, gaslights and pea-soup fogs.

Several Hollywood films – notably Murder by Decree staring Christopher Plummer – have bought together the factual killer and the fictional sleuth.

Books have also been written on the subject – in one case putting forward the theory that they were one and the same man.

Picture: WARNER BROS

DEDUCTION: Robert Downey Jr played Sherlock Holmes in the recent film, now David Pybus has given the sleuth a new investigation

When Sherlock Holmes chased Jack the Ripper

Maniac

But now former cruse ship entertainer and Dragons' Den entrepreneur David Pybus has written a stage show asking how Holmes would have investigated the killer whose identity has baffled experts for more than a century.

It will be staged on Tuesdays, February 1 and 8, at the Tower Theatre, Folkestone.

Mr Pybus said: "It is true that many people think Sherlock Holmes really existed.

"I have heard the question asked – 'why was the world's greatest detective, at the height of his ability as the supreme deductive reasoner, not bought in on the Ripper murders?'

"Well the answer is obvious – one is real and one isn't. But I thought I would have a go at bringing their worlds together."

Drawing on his experience as an entertainer – mainly on P&O ships – Mr Pybus put together a format which includes clues as to his theories on the identity and motives of the homicidal maniac, so the audience can investigate alongside Holmes.

He said: "There were more than 100 suspects originally identified by the police as possibly being the killer and I have narrowed that down – via expert opinions from people who have studied the cases – to 20.

"These I outline in one of the talks and then Holmes comes along. I've made it part of the plot that he wasn't originally consulted because of internecine rivalry within the police – the Metropolitan and City of London forces both had crimes on their patch attributed to the Ripper.

"So what I've done is looked at a murder which had similar aspects to the killings but took place in 1905 – well after the Ripper's reign of terror.

"I have suggested Holmes is bought in to allay public fears that a fresh outbreak of killings set to take place as Jack is back."

Mr Pybus, who has also been involved in making perfumes based on the scents of the past following his success in Dragons' Den, has kept as much faith as possible with Doyle's vision of Holmes and his world.

He said: "There are other characters involved – Dr Watson and a wife I have given him – an American expert in psychology.

"There is also a top US detective who helps to put the puzzle together. Meanwhile the audience can take part with riddles and ciphers to see what they can come up with.

"Naturally I'm not giving it away – but the conclusion I have reached is an astounding one."

• ***To see David talk about his production and view a selection of Holmes and Ripper memorabilia go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.***

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Passenger survey gives thumbs up to Southeastern

By **JON COATES**

IT WILL come as a surprise to many commuters, but the majority of passengers say they are satisfied with the service provided by rail operator Southeastern.

Rail watchdog Passenger Focus published the results of its National Passenger Survey for autumn 2010 on Wednesday.

And they showed that 80 per cent of train users were satisfied with the service provided by the under-fire operator.

This was the third lowest overall satisfaction rating for train operating companies nationwide, but still shows every four out of five passengers said they were happy with the service Southeastern delivers.

However, the poll of passengers was carried out before trains ground to a halt during the freeze in December or the company increased fares by up to 12.8 per cent across the county at the start of this month.

It also comes in stark contrast to an online poll conducted by this newspaper this week.

We asked 'what is your overall level of satisfaction with the service you receive from Southeastern trains?' Just five per cent polled were 'very satisfied', 12 per cent were 'quite satisfied', five per cent were 'satisfied', while 28 per cent were 'disappointed' and 48 per cent voted 'unacceptably bad'.

Passenger Focus expressed concern earlier this month after Southeastern's annual performance figures claimed 82.04 per cent of its trains ran on time, just above the 82 per cent threshold that would have triggered a five per cent reduction in season ticket prices.

The pressure on Southeastern has grown with Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, meeting Southeastern's managing director Charles Horton to demand answers about cancelled trains, punctuality targets and "unfair" ticket price increases.

And North Thanet MP Roger Gale is due to meet rail minister Theresa Villiers on Tuesday next week to discuss the future of Southeastern's franchise in light of the recent performance issues.

A Southeastern spokesman said: "We are encouraged that we have matched our results from last year in the latest National Passenger Survey following the biggest timetable change in this region for 40 years.

More to be done

"We're particularly pleased with the continued success of high speed as the UK's best commuter service with 94 per cent satisfaction. However, we recognise the survey was carried out before the recent exceptional snow and icy weather which caused major disruption to our services.

"We appreciate that there is still a lot more that we can do to improve our service."

The survey, which polled nearly 31,000 passengers at stations nationwide, found that for London and South East operators 83 per cent of passengers were very or fairly satisfied overall, which is a slight improvement on autumn 2009, when it was 82 per cent.

The lowest ratings for overall satisfaction were given to First Capital Connect, with 76 per cent, with Southeastern at third lowest with 80 per cent.

Airport races on with horse plans

THE world's top horses could be landing at Manston airport in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The Thanet airport has started work on a new £250,000 EU equine border inspection post that will open in April and be capable of housing up to 10 horses.

It will include a dedicated inspection stable offering state-of-the-art equipment and will be licensed for the importation of horses and other animals into the EU.

Manston group manager for freight development Allan McQuarrie said: "With no slot restrictions and no congestion in the air or on the ground, we can offer customers a fast, professional and efficient service, ensuring the least amount of stress for their animals.

"As well as attracting regular business from charter brokers and dedicated equine transport specialists, we have offered the airport's services to the Olympic Committee. With the equestrian events taking place at Greenwich Village, Manston is ideally located on the M2."

Sensory pool for a special school

ACTOR Graham Cole, who played PC Tony Stamp for 25 years in TV drama The Bill, helped unveil a new multi-sensory hydrotherapy pool for young people with disabilities and learning difficulties.

The pool at the Marjorie McClure School in Chislehurst, has been fitted with £28,000 of sensory equipment thanks to the Lord's Taverners, and the Hearn Foundation. The school caters for pupils aged four to 19 with a range of sensory impairments, learning difficulties and additional complex needs.

The school has specialist status for physical development and the new multi-sensory pool will play a key role in maximising opportunities for its pupils to explore different types of sports and physical activities.

Multi-sensory pools feature a relaxing and stimulating variety of sights and sounds as well as the therapeutic benefits of hydrotherapy. The facilities benefit youngsters with sensory impairment by enhancing development of the senses.

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TV licence dodging is rife in the county

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT has been exposed as one of the worst places in the country for dodging the TV licence fee.

Some 9,000 people were caught watching television without the necessary paperwork last year, cheating Government out of £1.2 million in licence fees.

A spokeswoman from TV Licensing said other counties had significantly lower figures and Kent was up with the worst for licence evasion. Medway was highlighted as one of the main offenders, with more than 800 evaders in Chatham, 710 in Gillingham, and 630 in Rochester, risking a £1,000 fine or prosecution.

A colour TV licence costs £145.50 a year, and £49 for a black and white television.

Ian Fannon, TV Licensing spokesman for the South East, said it was not fair on the majority of people who pay their licence fee for others to get away with not paying.

"We try to give people every chance to get on the right side of the law, but ultimately if they fail to pay, we will take action," he said.

"We take TV licence evasion very seriously and any householder or business caught watching TV without a licence can face a prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

"We do understand that some people may find it difficult to pay their licence fee in one go, which is why we offer numerous ways to spread the cost, including monthly Direct Debit, which can be set up very quickly online, and a weekly or monthly cash payment plan."

MAIN OFFENDERS: Some 9,000 people were caught switching on the televisions without having paid for a licence

Funds raised through the collection of TV licence fees are redistributed almost entirely to pay for the BBC's domestic radio, television and internet services.

A percentage is sometimes used in other ways, including to help with the digital switch over of Channel 4.

Chief executive of the Money Advice Trust Joanna Elson said a TV licence should be treated as a priority debt alongside expenses such as mortgage or rent and council tax.

"Those struggling with their finances should seek free, independent advice from a charitable organisation such as National Debtline or Citizens Advice," she said.

Quentin Willson joins Kent's fuel prices campaign

MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT: Kate Gibbs, from the Road Haulage Association, TV's Quentin Willson and Theo de Pencier from the Freight Transport Association

MOTORING guru Quentin Willson has teamed up with Kent activist Peter Carroll to fight rocketing fuel prices, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

The former Top Gear presenter took the Fair Fuel UK campaign – spearheaded by Shepway Lib Dem councillor Mr Carroll – to Parliament and handed in letters for every MP in protest at rising petrol costs.

"If something isn't done soon, it will destabilise the whole economy," said Willson. "The soaring cost of fuel is damaging businesses the length and breadth of the UK.

"I totally support the aims of Fair Fuel UK and I urge everyone who cares about the price of fuel to sign up to the campaign."

Some 24,000 people have already signed the online petition and a further 1,800 forms have been downloaded with the capacity of 20 signatures for each form.

Shepway Lib Dem councillor and Fair Fuel UK campaigner Lynne Beaumont said: "That means potentially a further 36,000 signatures to the petition.

"This is a sign of the anger and desperation that people are feeling.

"The letters to MPs handed in by Quentin are just the start of lobbying on this vital matter. The Government needs to listen on this issue and act accordingly."

Last week KoS revealed the anger felt by community leaders and business owners over the rising fuel costs where prices are now just below £1.30 per litre for petrol and around £1.32 for diesel.

The rise was due in part to increases in global oil prices, but motorists were also hit by a 1p fuel tax rise last October, another 0.76p hike on New Year's Day, and the general rise in VAT just three days later.

Another 1p hike is planned for April.

Fair Fuel UK is co-ordinated by Cllr Carroll, who was behind the successful Gurkha rights campaign alongside actress Joanna Lumley. He last year sold his Maidstone-based haulage firm Seymour Transport.

Speaking ahead of Tuesday's protest at Parliament, which he was unable to attend due to being out of the country, he said: "The current surge in prices is hurting people and businesses all across the UK.

"The country will be rightly furious if the Government seeks to hide behind 'the environment' as an excuse for not acting by scrapping the fuel duty hike planned for April and introducing measures to reduce and stabilize the price.

"Simply using high fuel prices to force people out of their cars is wrong. It hurts vulnerable people and will drive vital businesses to the wall."

Campaigners in Kent are calling for David Cameron to fulfil his pre-election pledge of putting in place a fuel duty stabiliser, which would see fuel duty fall when oil prices rise.

Go to www.fairfueluk.com to sign the petition and find out more.

Bats given new homes in park

THE declining bat population will see its living standards improve thanks to dozens of bat boxes installed at the Lower Lines Park in Gillingham.

The boxes were put up by MidKent College under the direction of bat expert Dr Lynn Whitfield after a sonic survey revealed that bats are living in the college-funded woodland.

It is hoped the addition of 30 new homes for the bats will enable the existing population to grow.

Park supervisor, Kev Woolford, said: "Dr Lynn Whitfield and her team spent two nights scanning for bat activity. We were chuffed to bits when she told us that bats are already living in the park. We want to do everything we can to support them."

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Get involved at the opening of Turner gallery

A SERIES of interactive events has been lined up to celebrate the opening of the £17 million Turner Contemporary art gallery in Margate.

The 10-day You Are Here programme, which starts on April 16, aims to entertain visitors with a range of attractions which the public are also being invited to participate in.

While the final line-up has not yet been revealed, the gallery has named three stars from the art world who have signed up.

They are the internationally-renowned composer Orlando Gough, West End musical director Tony Castro, and Austrian choreographer Willi Dorner.

Mr Gough and Mr Castro will collaborate on The Big Sing project and are appealing for local singers to form a modern music choir.

Weekly rehearsals will start in February and culminate with a live performance at the gallery on Sunday, April 23, but it is hoped the group will stay together after that date.

Call Heather Sawney on 01843 577428 for more information.

Meanwhile, Willi Dorner is looking for flexible volunteers to take part in his Bodies in Urban Spaces performance.

On April 16 and 17 he plans to position his helpers in selected spots around the town to create striking images and give participants a stronger relationship to their neighbourhood.

Call Sepake Angiama on 01843 233000 for more information.

Situated on Margate's seafront on the spot JMW Turner stayed when visiting the town, the Turner Contemporary will be the largest exhibition space in the South East outside London. The gallery will open on April 16 and is hoped to be the catalyst for a regeneration of the town.

Travel show a great place to plan your next holiday

By **MARIJKE COX**
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ARCHANT KOS Media's celebrated Travel and Leisure Show is back for a fourth year, and promises to be better than ever.

Visitors to the event will find great ideas for day trips, weekend breaks, and holidays abroad, as well as being in with a chance of winning from a selection of prizes, including a two-week cruise courtesy of Fred. Olsen Cruise Line.

And for the first time, a French contingent is making its way across the Channel for a new part of the show promoting tourism on the Continent.

More than 4,000 people attended the 2010 show at the Dover Cruise Terminal, and this year's event, at the same venue from 10am to 4pm on Sunday, March 13, promises to be even better.

Archant KOS Media events manager Liz Hare said: "Every year the show goes from strength to strength, with many return visitors saying they wouldn't miss it for the world.

"We have a completely new area this year devoted entirely to France, featuring 15 French companies who have come across the Channel to take representation.

"Since its launch three years ago this show has been very successful, and with the registrations pouring in and 41 prizes on offer, I hope this year will exceed expectations."

PACKED: Visitors to last year's Travel and Leisure Show found plenty to interest them

This year's show will run during British Tourism Week, which aims to raise awareness of the importance of Britain's visitor economy.

Organisers behind the national event, which runs from March 12-20, gave Archant KOS Media official accreditation for the annual Travel and Leisure Show.

THE travel & leisure SHOW

This year visitors will be treated to a host of exhibitors from top travel and ferry companies, as well as information about attractions in Britain and Kent for those planning to holiday at home.

Last year's show won the praise of the travel industry, with many putting in early reservations to secure stands in 2011.

Roy and Margaret Jones, from Go Cruise, said: "We're trying to think of words that would sum up the show like fantastic, best show ever, great organisation, amazing, but it doesn't really sum up how good we find the show."

There will be a full programme of talks throughout the day covering a wide range of travel and leisure activities.

Food and drink, and a licensed bar, plus children's entertainment – including nail art and face painting – will ensure a fun and informative day for all the family.

Entry is free and free parking will also be available.

• ***For more details about the show see www.thetravelandleisureshow.co.uk or call Liz Hare on 01303 817172.***

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Crews doubled to beat winter pothole legacy

A MAJOR blitz on potholes has been launched, with the number of road crews doubled to cope with the demand, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

It follows one of the coldest Decembers on record, which left massive holes in Kent's roads due to 'freeze thaw' – when ice in the cracks of the surface melt causing damage to road surface.

For the next month some 60 specialist tarmac workers will be out in force across the county fixing safety-related potholes.

The £1 million-plus drive comes ahead of a major repair campaign being launched this summer, similar to last year's six-month £6.5 million 'find and fix' scheme.

More than 31,000 potholes were filled, with gangs carrying out six times the work that would have normally been done.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said the authority was again looking for small and medium-sized engineering firms to get involved this year.

He said: "We invested a huge amount of money in our road network and did a tremendous amount of work under the 'find and fix' campaign during last summer.

"The response to this work was fantastic. Residents and businesses across Kent could see the difference it made to our roads.

"In early spring we will take stock of how much damage has been caused by the harsh weather, with a view to running a similar campaign again this year."

Cllr Carter said for the current one-month pothole blitz, specialist firms had been drafted in to tackle the problem head on.

"They will aim to make a permanent fix where they can," he said. "Everyone is aware that the public purse is under pressure.

THEY'RE BACK: Potholes in Kent roads

"We are investing this money wisely now to reduce what would be a bigger bill further down the road and to minimise the problems potholes can cause for drivers."

But despite the pledge, a survey by breakdown organisation AA exposed one of Kent's towns as having some of the worst streets in the country, based on a number of factors including potholes, uneven pavements, faded road markings and litter.

Dartford was exposed in the report as an area plagued by road problems, but KCC and the borough council disputed the allegations.

A Dartford council spokeswoman said the authority had carried out research which found the AA survey had been based on a postcode area which included Gravesend, Bexley, Bexleyheath, Erith, Sidcup and Welling – not just Dartford.

Director of Kent Highway Services, John Burr, said the AA's information in relation to potholes and road problems across Kent was based on just 11 respondents.

Report road problems at www.kent.gov.uk or call the 24-hour-helpline on 08458 247800.

RNLI crews rescued 502 people in 2010

THE RNLI's Kent volunteer lifeboat crews rescued 502 people last year, and there were 346 launches.

In 2010, Kent lifeboat crews spent 450 hours at sea on emergency call outs – about 18 days at sea.

RNLI Ramsgate rescued 154 people from 77 launches, while Dover rescued 64 people, nearly twice the number of launches they carried out at 34.

RNLI Sheerness also had a busy year, carrying out 89 launches, a rise of 16 per cent compared to 2009.

Incidents involving sail and power pleasure craft accounted for more than 60 per cent of all launches, reflecting the growing rise of leisure craft users.

RNLI East Divisional Inspector Andrew Ashton said: "RNLI Kent lifeboat crews continue to carry out a vital service, and rescuing many grateful people whose fate, without our service, may have been very different.

"Our dedicated volunteers go out to sea in all types of weather conditions, including icy rain and gale force winds, and they're ready to drop everything, as soon as their pagers go off, to help save lives."

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is a charity independent of Government and relies on donations to pay for its work.

Safer surfing campaign

CHILDREN and young people across Kent are being urged to stay safe online, as the authorities build up to next month's Safer Internet Day.

Kent County Council will be sending posters and guidance information to schools as part of the push on Tuesday, February 8, to keep people safe in cyberspace.

Becki Avery, KCC e-safety officer, said: "Safer Internet Day is held annually across Europe. We will be taking part by running our 'Think B4U' campaign. This reminds children, teachers, parents and anyone who uses the internet to think carefully before shopping online, posting comments or talking on the web.

"It is essential that young people understand that online actions have offline consequences. It is easy to forget you have a potential audience of millions of people online."

Animal centre set for influx

POOCH: Meena was handed in to staff

THE first of what are predicted to be hundreds of animals abandoned by their owners this year have been taken in by a leading charity, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Staff at Battersea Dogs and Cats Home in Brands Hatch received two homeless dogs – one found stray and the other handed in by her owner – and a stray cat which had been spotted living rough for a month before being brought in by a member of the public.

The dogs – Meena and Tilly – and Twiglet the cat will be among the thousands that pass through the three Battersea centres in Kent, Berkshire and London this year.

In 2009, the homes took in 10,600 animals. The charity saw the number of pets abandoned over Christmas rise sharply, but a spokeswoman for the Kent branch said the real influx would come in March.

"People might get a pet for Christmas and by that point not want it any more," she said.

HOMELESS: Twiglet the cat is one of the animals at Brands Hatch in need of a home

Cats and dogs taken in by the centre are held for seven days, to give owners time to reclaim them. If they remain unclaimed, staff will start the search for a new home for the animal, possibly with one of the 11,500 people who visit the site each year looking for a pet.

Battersea Brands Hatch centre manager, Richard King, said: "Battersea never really closes its doors, so animals continued to arrive to us over Christmas.

"We care for over 800 animals each year at the Brands Hatch site, so please get in touch with us if you have lost your pet, and with luck it might have already been handed in.

"If you think you can offer a good home to an unwanted dog or cat in 2011, please think of Battersea."

The charity is also seeing animals being left abandoned in boxes and bins. In October, a pregnant Jack Russell dog was dumped in a sealed cardboard box and left to die in woodland in Maidstone.

The RSPCA was called and the dog had an emergency Caesarean but its puppy died.

Battersea's intake and assessing manager, Sean Welland, said: "If someone can no longer care for a pet for whatever reason, we would urged them to bring it to an animal rescue, but never dump or abandon them."

Anyone interested in taking on an animal from the Brands Hatch site can contact the re-homing team on 01474 875106 or email bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk. If you have lost a pet call 0901 4778477.

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Jailed after 'senseless' punch that killed man

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

A KILLER who delivered a fatal blow during a mass brawl has been jailed for three-and-a-half years.

Ruben White punched Saulius Klevinskas once, causing him to fall to the floor.

The 35-year-old Lithuanian was rushed to hospital for emergency treatment, but died five days later.

White, 22, of Kingswood Road, Gillingham, handed himself into police and was charged with manslaughter. He pleaded guilty to the offence and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court.

The court heard how White and three other men were sitting in a car in Balmoral Road, Gillingham, on Saturday, August 21, 2110, when Mr Klevinskas came out of a nearby shop with two friends.

MANSLAUGHTER: Ruben White

Someone in the car threw a drinks can at the group, leading to an argument between the men.

Mr Klevinskas then smashed one of the car's windows, White got out of the vehicle and a fight broke out.

The victim was punched once by White. He died at Medway Maritime Hospital on August 26 with his family at his bedside.

Det Insp Geoff Payne said: "This was a violent assault which had fatal and devastating consequences.

"Ruben White may not have intended to kill a man that day, but his aggressive actions and thoughtlessness resulted in the most devastating circumstances imaginable.

"I would like to thank the witnesses and residents for their help in coming forward to help with the police investigation into this incident.

"I would also like to thank the off-duty Accident and Emergency nurse who was at the scene and attended to the victim before the ambulance arrive.

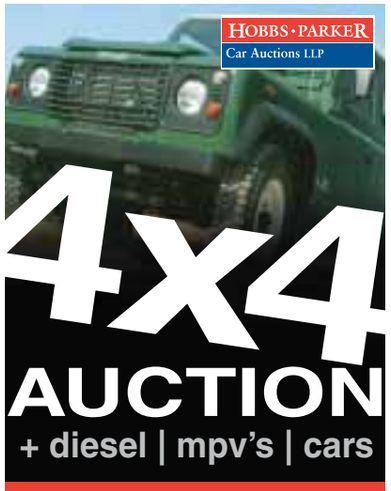
"This was a tragic case, and highlights how one person's irresponsible actions can prove fatal.

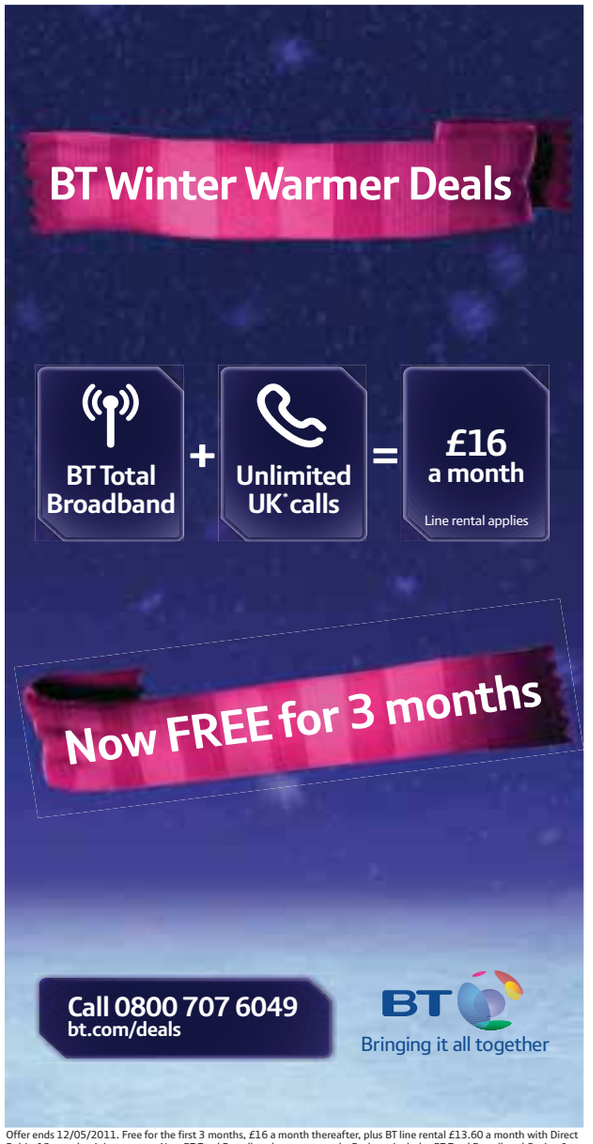
"If other people find themselves in this situation, hopefully they will not act so senselessly, as it is clear from this incident that even one punch can prove to be fatal."

ARMED police were called in and children were confined to classrooms after a gunman was spotted in St Anselm's School field last week.

A caretaker at the Catholic comprehensive in Old Dover Road, Canterbury, saw the man crossing the school field with a rifle at 8am on Thursday, January 20, as pupils were arriving.

He called the police, who sent in armed response units. Fortunately it was a false alarm. An air rifle shoot was taking place on a farm near the school, and the gunman was an attendee taking an ill-advised shortcut.





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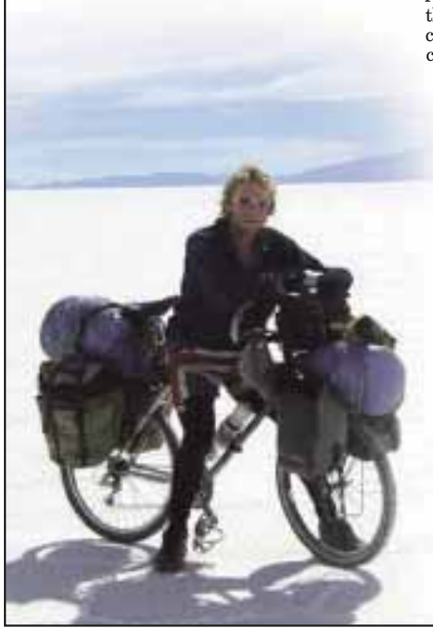
Adventurer always looking

DESPITE his reputation as one of the world's most daring explorers, Alastair Humphreys admits he is probably too well-prepared to warrant the attentions of Hollywood.

Later this year the Gravesend adventurer plans to complete the first return journey to the South Pole on foot, having already successfully cycled 46,000 miles around the world as part of an epic four-year challenge.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk



But barring any unforeseen mishaps Alastair knows he will find it tough to achieve the same level of notoriety as American rock-climber Aron Ralston, whose tale is told in the critically-acclaimed film 127 Hours.

Ralston gained fame in 2003 when, while canyoning alone in Utah, he was forced to amputate his lower-right arm after it became trapped by a boulder.

"Sadly, given I make my living out of telling exciting stories, I have had no such near-death experiences," said Alastair, 33. "But then that sort of thing only happens if you're a bit of an idiot really.

"There's a fine balance between being spontaneous and then a rock falling on your arm, but if he'd simply left a note telling people where he was going then he wouldn't have had to cut his arm off.

"I don't consider what I do to be dangerous. It's more about endurance and using common sense."

Alastair's thirst for adventure began when he completed the 26-mile Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge aged just eight.

Since graduating, the intrepid explorer has raced a yacht across the Atlantic Ocean, canoed 500 miles down the Yukon River and even run the Marathon des Sables with a broken foot.

This year's trek to the South Pole will continue into next January and mark the centenary of the same expedition completed by Captain Robert Scott in January, 1912.

OUT AND ABOUT: Alastair Humphreys, from left, in the Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia; Training in the Lake District; and map reading in the desert. Above, actor James Franco tells the story of Aron Ralston in 127 Hours

But of all the challenges taken on by Alastair over the years, he is in no doubt as to which has been the most memorable so far.

"The round-the-world bike ride was my first big one and it took four years to complete, which was a significant chunk of my 20s," he said. "It was very strange when I reached the end. On the one hand I was very happy and proud of what I had achieved, but on the other I was sad the whole thing had come to an end.

"I also had no idea what I was going to do with my life for the next 60 years, so it was a real mixture of emotions. But when I realised

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mine was a story that people found interesting, I realised there were opportunities out there for me."

Alastair has since written three books about his various adventures, entitled Moods of Future Joys, Ten Lessons from the Road, and Thunder and Sunshine.

He also gives inspirational talks to would-be explorers, including on January 29, when he will appear at the Adventure Travel Live show at London's Horticultural Halls.

For more information on the event – which is run from Hartlip, near Sittingbourne – visit www.adventuretravellive.co.uk.

"I really hope that one day I will get to the end of the trip and say it's time to settle down and get a real job," added Alastair.

"I wouldn't like to feel constantly dissatisfied with life by always looking for more challenging experiences."

Find more news and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

More turbines for wind farm

A COMMUNITY consultation process is being launched on Monday over plans to extend the Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm off Herne Bay.

Energy company Vattenfall wants to add up to 17 wind turbines to the existing 30 turbines at the five-year old wind farm, and the public consultation will run until March 4.

Vattenfall project manager Göran Loman said: "We are launching our community consultation next week and it's really important that the community and all those with an interest in our proposal to extend Kentish Flats get involved and tell us what they think."

For more information on the Kentish Flats Extension see www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm

Fox killer faces angry protest

A VET who killed a giant fox after it attacked his parents' cat has defended his actions as anti-hunt protestors staged a demonstration outside his surgery this week.

Keith Talbot, who works at Eden Veterinary Practice in Fife, caught and killed a fox weighing 26.5lbs in Maidstone last month after it was seen with a cat – later found dead – in its mouth.

Mr Talbot has denied he is anti-fox and disputed claims he was a member of the Veterinary Association for Wildlife Management – known as Vets for Hunting.

"My parents were understandably devastated by the loss of a pet and asked me to do something to protect other cats in the area," he said. "Two foxes were caught in a cage trap and put to sleep humanely."

"My father had a stroke recently. Whitehead Monckton helped me sell his home so he could move in to a care home and sort out payment of his care costs with minimal fuss. They also made sure his finances are now protected for his ongoing benefit."

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Ancient records threatened by council cutbacks

By **JENNY ARMSTRONG**

THE archives at Canterbury Cathedral, containing everything from original medieval charters to historical photographs, are under threat due to a Kent County Council restructure.

Archivists have been conserving and protecting city records continuously for 1,300 years, but the council's decision will mean many of the documents will be moved to Maidstone.

Currently the cathedral has a partnership with Kent County Council, as the archives in Canterbury hold many council records and much family history material. Because of this, the council directly employs most of the archive staff.

Saddened

If those staff were to be removed, either the archives would have to be closed to the public or the cathedral would have to employ staff from money it needs for structural repairs.

A cathedral spokesman said: "The cathedral is saddened by Kent County Council's decision to terminate the long-standing agreement between KCC and the cathedral, which has been in place since the mid-1980s.

"We are now looking at other ways to continue both the preservation of the cathedral's own archives and making them available to the public. Until we know more about KCC's plans, we cannot comment further."

Although Kent County Council is still discussing its plans with the cathedral, the decision to remove the council's archives and funding from Canterbury has been made.

KCC cabinet member for community services, Cllr Mike Hill, said: "From 2012 we plan to withdraw from the current partnership with Canterbury Cathedral Archive.

"As part of our work to modernise our Archive and Local History Service we will be bringing together our archive collections from across the county and helping the public access them in new and innovative ways.

"KCC members have taken the decision to move all of the collections we are responsible for to the purpose-built Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone, which will be opening to the public in 2012.

"This will mean we can best care for the collections and the public will have better access than at our existing archive centres.

"We intent to move the very small collec-

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ON MOVE: City records at Canterbury Cathedral will now move to Maidstone

tion owned by KCC to the new centre where there will be a purpose-built conservation suite and digitisation facility."

The future is uncertain for the eight or nine expert KCC archivists who work in Canterbury. Some may be relocated to Maidstone, some may be taken on by the cathedral, but they may be made redundant, ending a tradition of record-keeping built up over 1,300 years.

Cllr Hill said: "We are in discussions with the Cathedral Archive around the impact of these changes on staffing and where collections should be based. We understand the cathedral intends to run an archive service."

But the cathedral spokesman said no decision had yet been made.

Praise for care

EXCELLENT and good care homes mean the community can have confidence in services available in Medway, claims the council.

It says than nine out of 10 of Medway's care home residents are living in good or excellent accommodation, according to the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The CQC report puts Medway third in the league table, compared to other authorities of a similar size, and well above the national average of 88 per cent.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for adult services, Cllr Tom Mason, said: "Medway continues to lead the way in providing the best care for vulnerable people"

Science festival

THE Kent Festival of Science will be back at Canterbury College next month.

This is the 16th year the event has taken place, and over that time it has attracted 60,000 visitors.

This year, visitors to Canterbury College's campus in New Dover Road on February 23-24, will be able to see a huge range of shows and demonstrations, get involved in hands-on activities and make things to take away.

The festival is expected to attract 1,500 people per day. Tickets cost £7. For more details visit www.sciencefestival.org.uk.

SEVEN doves and 12 canaries were stolen from an aviary at a home in Alexandra Road, Sheerness, on Friday, January 21.

The thieves broke two padlocks on the aviary in the back garden a house and stole the diamond doves, which are grey and red, and approximately 12 red factor canaries, which are red and orange.

Officers are urging pet shops or members of the public to contact them if they are offered birds for sale.

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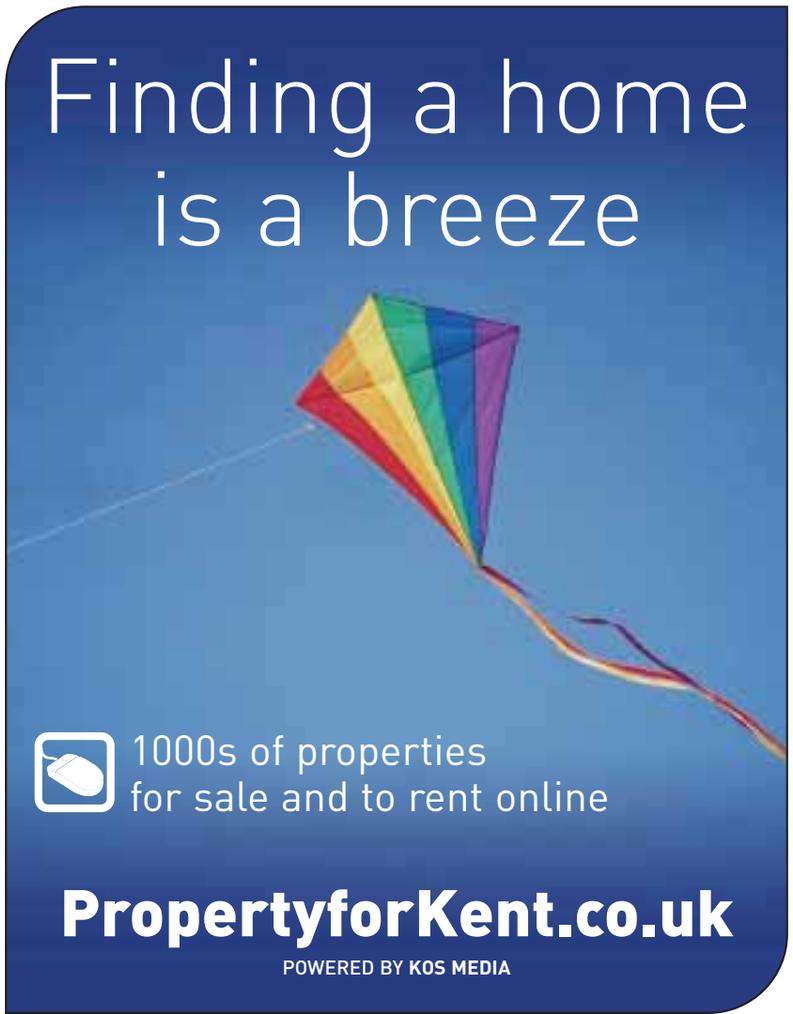
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Coalition not doing bad job, says a politician who knows

Lib Dem chief recalls power-sharing on KCC

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

AS A former member of the only coalition ever to have run Kent County Council, Trudy Dean is well aware of the difficulties the Government currently faces.

Given the current Conservative dominance of not just County Hall, but of Kent's political landscape in general, one would be forgiven for being ignorant of the fact that between 1993 and 1997, the Garden of England was controlled by a Labour-Lib Dem administration.

Cllr Dean was there at the time – albeit not in her current role as Lib Dem leader of the opposition on KCC – and the experience has taught her to not to be too harsh on others who find themselves in a similar position.

"I would give the Coalition Government a seven or eight out of 10 so far, which is probably the best one could hope for," she said.

"We didn't win the election and, as happened at KCC when we joined with Labour, I think we had no choice but to push our wish lists together.

Tuition fees

"Being in a coalition is very hard work. To get anything through you have to persuade members of both parties, and it's clear there's a lot of burning the candle at both ends.

"However, I've made no secret of the fact that I'm very unhappy with the tuition fee increases and I think we will pay as a nation if there is a fall-off of students as a result.

"I find it difficult to understand why, when everyone else is having to make do with less, the universities should be able to treble their tuition fees in just one year. That doesn't make any sense to me.

"However, I think the best things we have done are to link the state pension to the cost of living, and to start to relieve those earning less than £10,000 from tax."

Earlier this month KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter announced the authority must make savings of £95 million during 2011-12, and that 1,500 posts will be lost in the next four years as a result.

The budget is based on a reduction in government grants of more than 10 per cent, or about £58m.

Cllr Dean said she thought councils were being forced to accept more than their fair share of the cuts.

"We're taking a far higher budget cut than any other form of public service and I don't think that's necessary, or the right thing to do," she added.

"Over the next few months we are going to see what the cuts mean on the ground in Kent. For example, £400,000 will be disappearing from supporting bus routes, but we don't yet know which ones will go.

"The Conservatives in KCC are in a difficult position, but it's extremely disappointing that they have been unable to persuade their colleagues on a national level that the cuts are too big and too fast."

Now 64, former girls' school teacher Cllr Dean was elected to the county council in 1985 and has represented the Malling Central ward ever since.

As well as being the leader of the Lib Dem group – a position she has held since 1997 – Cllr Dean is also chairman of both West Malling Parish Council and of the Malling Action Partnership.

FULL DIARY: KCC Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean says her council work is a full-time job

However, aside from those four years in the late 1990s, she has had to contend with being a small Lib Dem fish in a big Conservative pond that holds 72 of 83 available seats.

"Because of the first-past-the-post system the Tories have a very large majority, and I don't think that's healthy," said Cllr Dean.

"The council is far less democratic than it could be as a result. We have a system where the backbenchers are supposed to hold the cabinet to account, but only one scrutiny committee – the one that I chair – is chaired by a member of an opposition party.

"We're asking a large group of Conservative councillors to say whether their Conservative cabinet members have done the right thing, and not surprisingly, they're very loathe to say they haven't.

Scrutiny

"Take the elderly care home closures for instance. It's clear there's quite a lot of concern among Tory members, but no-one has carried it through to voting against the proposals.

"The scrutiny system does not work effectively at KCC, and I hope that in the next year or so we have a new system that better involves people on the ground, like residents and local societies."

Despite having retired from her professional working life, the married mother of two views her role as Lib Dem leader as a full-time job that keeps her busy beyond the normal nine-to-five hours.

"I don't find it difficult to lead the party, because we have an extremely talented group of people," she said. "But when the numbers are so small, it's difficult to keep track and campaign on every issue, so we have to concentrate on the most important ones.

"In terms of time commitments, my diary is very full and I have to be careful to programme some chill-out time.

"I like to visit family, read books and I'm learning how to watercolour paint. I used to do it at school and got involved with it again about five years ago.

"It's not relaxing though. It's infuriating because I can't do it well enough, but at least it concentrates my mind on something completely different to council matters."

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Thousands sign up for first aid

LAST year more than 10,000 people in Kent attended first aid, and health and safety courses, run by St John Ambulance.

The first aid charity has 12 training venues across the county, and trained a total of 10,191 people in 2010.

St John Ambulance South East training director Sabarah Cursons said: "Each year up to 150,000 die in situations where first aid could have given them a chance to live and this is something which must stop.

"We are delighted that Kent businesses and residents have begun to realise the importance of first aid and hope we can teach even more people how to be the difference in 2011."

For more details visit www.sja.org.uk or call 0844 324 5535.

RSPB wants to count on you all

THE RSPB is asking people in Kent to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend and help record which birds they see.

Spokeswoman Sophie McCallum said: "We'd like to get as many people in Kent involved as possible. You don't have to be a birdwatcher. Everyone can enjoy watching the birds that visit their garden."

Last year more than 17,000 people in Kent took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, the highest ever recorded.

All you have to do is spend one hour over the weekend counting the birds in your garden or local park, and record the highest number of every bird species seen at any one time.

House sparrows were the most common bird in Kent gardens last year, starlings took second place, and blackbirds third.

See www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.

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A fantastic opportunity to own a superb example of a pre-owned holiday home offering perfect family accommodation. The price includes all set up costs, 2010 site fees and insurance. This home is in excellent condition and must be viewed!

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KCC takes on powers to make us healthier

THE head of Kent County Council has welcomed NHS reforms that will give the authority more power to help improve public health.

Under plans confirmed by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley last week, local councils will take back the responsibility for public health they previously enjoyed until 1974.

This means authorities like KCC will have more control over measures to reduce obesity, stop people smoking, tackle binge-drinking and so on.

Speaking at a meeting in the House of Lords, the council's group managing director Katherine Kerswell said the reforms provided an opportunity to drive positive change in communities.

She said: "When I was chief executive in Solihull, the area of Chelmsley Wood in the north of the borough had very poor health outcomes and the only two restaurants available were a Chunky Chippy and a well-known burger chain – that was it.

POSITIVE: Katherine Kerswell, of KCC

"I can remember thinking how we could use our planning policy to say no more takeaways and drive health improvements in that way.

"Now we have the opportunity to see how we can take that next very big step."

Arguably the biggest reforms set out in the health and social care bill involve the axing of England's 152 primary care trusts and the transfer of commissioning powers to groups of GPs.

They will be responsible for buying in patient care from 2013, with a new NHS commissioning board overseeing the process.

Local authorities will have to work much more closely with family doctors as a result, which Mrs Kerswell agreed was essential to the future of the health service.

She said: "I think we will see some enormous benefits and that bringing responsibility for public health to local government will be very powerful.

"But there are issues related to local GP consortia, because GPs aren't used to working with politicians and big strategies, so we've got a lot of groundwork and building relationships to be done there. I'm very positive about it."

Mrs Kerswell was invited to the Lords to

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

give evidence to the science and technology sub-committee, which is investigating how best to change the public's behaviour to achieve policy goals, including reducing carbon emissions.

She was joined by representatives of both Weightwatchers and obesity campaign Mend to give examples of how such organisations have successfully tackled the growing problem of obesity among both adults and children.

Obese and overweight patients cost Kent taxpayers more than £564 million in 2007 – a figure that is expected to increase by £62m a year by 2015.

Despite highlighting some of the projects being used in Kent to tackle such health problems – including Activmob and the House campaign for young people – Mrs Kerswell warned that people could not be forced to change their lifestyles.

She said: "In this country there's a freedom to be fat if you wish, and we have to be very careful about how we model policies, whether local or national, about lifestyle choices."

Stadium boost perfectly timed

THE Julie Rose Stadium has bought new photo-finish technology to bring it up to the highest athletic standards.

The purchase of the equipment has been funded by Ashford Athletics Club and Kent County Council, which contributed £6,000.

The council's sports, leisure and Olympics department wants to encourage more elite athletes to use the Ashford stadium.

The system was supplied by a Kent-based company called Timetronics. It will also be available for hire at the wide range of events held at the stadium, from local schools events to international meetings.

The stadium hopes to attract international teams wanting to train in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics.

Dave Fox, Ashford Athletics Club's honorary secretary, said: "The system will help raise the high standards of service and facilities at the Julie Rose Stadium."

App download winner for Gail

A WOMAN from Orpington has won $10,000 in iTunes vouchers after downloading the 10 billionth app from Apple.

Gail Davis downloaded the app, Paper Glider from Cirencester-based iPhone app developer Neon Play, over the weekend from the iTunes App Store.

Oli Christie, of Neon Play, said: "We'd been discussing the 10 billionth app countdown, so when I got a call from Apple Cupertino saying they had some good news, I thought they might tell us they were featuring one of our apps on the App Store."

Apple has been counting down to the landmark on the iTunes App Store.

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Flood survival tips will save your life

By **JILL HURST**

ESSENTIAL survival techniques will be taught to householders and businesspeople to prepare them for a major flood in Swale.

The Environment Agency said it had included the district in one of the country's biggest emergency exercises because of the high risk of a natural disaster.

Government agencies, emergency services and a raft of professionals will take part in a one-day event, codenamed Exercise Watermark, to be held in Leydown, Sheppey.

Organisers say its aim is to ensure the community is able to work together, quickly and effectively in the case of a real flooding emergency.

Amanda Davies, spokesman for the National Flood Forum, urged people to take the event seriously.

She said: "Climate change has seen a number of devastating floods recently, including huge parts of Australia and Brazil.

"People may not think it will happen to them but this is a very real risk and they must be prepared.

"Exercise Watermark aims to cover a range of issues, from becoming trapped in buildings to practical issues, such as where to live after a flood and how to sort out insurance claims.

"It will also demonstrate ways to protect your property from flooding and the emergency items you may need in such an event.

"There is a high risk of flooding in Swale and the information on hand is something people really need to think about now."

GET READY: There is a real risk of flood

Exercise Watermark will offer free advice on how to make a personalised, flood plan and flood kit. It will also showcase flood defence equipment and offer people the opportunity to talk to manufacturers and experts.

A spokesman for The Department of Environment said: "The recent floods in Australia are a stark warning of the devastation a flood can leave behind. By knowing the risk and taking action to prepare, people can reduce both the financial cost of damaged possessions and the emotional cost.

"This important event will help the people of Swale learn more about flood risk and how they can protect their home or business.

"The Environment Agency will be on hand to help people find out if their home or business is at risk of flooding and what vital steps they can take to reduce that risk."

Exercise Watermark will take place at Merlin's Entertainment Complex, 47 Leysdown Road, Leysdown on Sea, Isle of Sheppey from 3-7.30pm on Wednesday, February 9.

Contact the Department for Environment on 08459 335577 or The National Flood Forum on 01299 403101 for details.

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The Oak Hotel
66 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate
Tel: 01843 583686

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Murderer who fled justice in jail at last

A KILLER is finally in custody after being sentenced to 12 years in prison for a murder in 2003.

Kamaljit Kalon, known as Bobby, was stabbed in Gordon Promenade off Commercial Road in Gravesend, on July 10, 2003.

He suffered multiple stab wounds, including a fatal wound to the neck. Mr Kalon, 31, also had bite marks on his right arm.

Witness saw two bare-chested, blood-stained men flee the area shortly after the fight.

Officers identified Guljinder Singh Gurewel and Baljinder Singh Kooner as suspects, but both men fled the country.

In December, 2007, Gurewel, aged 33, was arrested as he attempted to smuggle himself back into the UK at the Thames Europort in Dartford. He was charged with murder and in 2008 was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Shortly after the sentencing of Gurewel, the courts issued a warrant for the arrest of Kooner. He was arrested by French police in September, 2009, and extradited to be charged with murder.

The court heard how the two men had left the country a few days after the murder and headed towards Italy.

JAILED: Baljinder Singh Kooner

Now Kooner has also been found guilty of murder by an Old Bailey jury, and will serve at least 12 years before being considered for parole.

Mr Kalon left behind his widow Ravinder, to whom he had been married for two years, and her three children by a previous marriage.

Det Insp Ian Rogerson, from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: "Our thoughts remain with Ravinder and her family, and we hope the verdict brings some closure to the terrible events in 2003.

"Kent Police has remained dedicated to bringing both offenders for this terrible crime before the courts, and we are pleased that the jury has returned a guilty verdict."

During the investigation, officers established that Mr Kalon had left his home in Sidcup on July 10 and gone to meet some men he knew.

The court heard how CCTV had captured a fight breaking out in the Promenade area of Gravesend just after 8pm. An ambulance was called and Mr Kalon was taken to Darent Valley Hospital, but died later that evening.

Witnesses described Kooner as the man who held Mr Kalon down while a second man stabbed him. DNA taken from bite marks on Mr Kalon's arm belonged to Kooner.

The prosecution said a dispute had occurred over a friendship between Mr Kalon and a woman in the area.

On sentencing Kooner, the judge said: "This was a vicious attack. No mercy was shown.

"You are not entitled to take the law into your own hands. He stood no chance."

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Ambulance crews face £5,000 pay cut

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

FRONTLINE ambulance staff could lose £5,000 a year, due to "appalling" cost-cutting by the NHS.

Critics have blasted the move and claim the changes, which involve a review of unsocial hours payments, could have a devastating impact on employees and their families.

The GMB union warned patient safety could also be put in jeopardy, and Labour MEP for the South East Peter Skinner said it could threaten the quality of the ambulance service.

But the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SECAmb), which serves 4.5 million people in Kent, Sussex and Surrey, defended the move, saying the system needed to be fairer on staff and taxpayers.

A spokesman said employees were currently paid for working unsocial hours, regardless of whether or not they worked them.

He explained how terms and conditions called Agenda for Change, introduced in 2004 for all NHS staff, included an entitlement of 25 per cent payment for those who worked more than 21 unsocial hours per week.

ON CALL: But staff now face a cut in their unsocial hours payments

However, the system was not able to accurately calculate the amount worked and calculations were therefore based on rota patterns.

He said: "The majority of frontline staff are paid the full 25 per cent unsocial hours premium, regardless of whether or not they have worked more than 21 unsocial hours per week on average.

"However, the introduction of new rota software now means the trust can accurately measure what hours each member of staff has worked, ensuring that all frontline staff are treated equally and a fair payment system can be introduced – one where people are paid for the work they undertake."

Changes will be introduced by SECAmb – which needs to make savings of about £40 million over the next five years – from April, 2011.

The spokesman said savings could be made without hitting frontline services.

But GMB regional organiser, Rob Macey, said the union, which represents staff including paramedics, technicians and emergency care support workers, would fight the changes.

He claimed the 25 per cent equated to about £5,000 which, if lost, would have a severe impact on employees.

"GMB members feel they are being treated appallingly by SECAmb, who appear hell-bent on making these cuts in order to achieve their foundation trust status," he said.

"GMB considers that paramedics, technicians and other ambulance workers provide a vitally important service to the public and they should be paid properly for doing so.

"Morale is now at an all-time low and it is a very real fear that patient safety could be put in jeopardy."

Labour MEP for the South East Peter Skinner called the Trust's move unacceptable.

"These cuts will have a devastating effect on individual workers, but this could also threaten the quality of ambulance services."

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Help us build an extension to Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm

Vattenfall, a leading European energy company, would like to extend its Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm (also known by local people as Whitstable or Herne Bay Wind Farm) with up to 17 wind turbines. This Statement of Community Consultation explains how you can comment on its proposed application for a development consent order to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

Kentish Flats Extension – the proposal

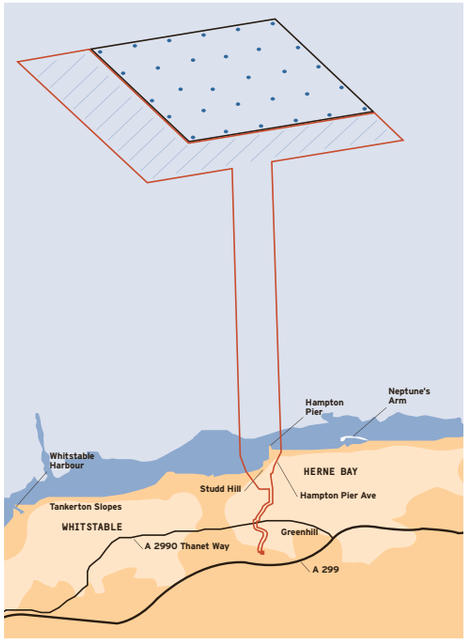
The existing Kentish Flats wind farm with 30 wind turbines has been producing green electricity since 2005. The proposed extension is around 8km off Herne Bay and will be to the south and west of the current project. It could add up to 17 wind turbines in 7.7 km2 of sea, in water depths between three and five metres at lowest tide.

The wind turbines for the extension will have a similar capacity to those currently used, with a tip height up to 145 metres. The turbines will be placed on top of large steel tube foundations which will be driven up to 35 metres into the seabed, similar to the current scheme.

Underwater cables will connect turbines to the existing offshore substation from which one or two underwater cables will run to shore at Hampton Pier, Herne Bay. Onshore, the new cables will follow the route of the existing cabling along the Hampton Pier Road under paved roads to the Red House Farm substation south of Herne Bay. KFE will not require any changes to the power grid.

Due to its scale, Vattenfall must do an assessment, known as EIA, of possible significant environmental effects of the extension.
We are also seeking views from all interests, including the public, on the proposal. We will consult on the whole project and have identified the following as likely to be important:

- Potential cumulative impacts on Red-throated divers in the Thames Estuary
- Visual, landscape and seascape effects
- Impact on fishing, leisure and business interests, including tourism
- Impact of onshore construction on nearby households
- Impact on traffic on roads caused by onshore works



There will be an opportunity to consider these and other points, during the consultation process. We will make available the preliminary findings of our EIA. This initial environmental information will also describe any alternatives we are considering and measures to minimise impacts.

Why Vattenfall wants to extend Kentish Flats

Kentish Flats Extension (KFE) could generate up to 150,000 megawatt hours per year of clean electricity, if 17 turbines are deployed. This is equivalent to the total annual electricity needs of up to 35,000 UK homes.

The UK's delivery of its offshore wind potential could supply the equivalent of 30% of the country's electricity demand. Offshore wind in the UK will help European green energy targets and the reduction of emissions that cause climate change.

Vattenfall is committed to major reductions in carbon emissions from its activities as an energy company. Wind power will it meet that commitment.

About Vattenfall

Vattenfall is a leading European energy company and is Europe's fifth largest generator of electricity and the continent's largest producer of heat. Across the north of Europe we operate many wind farms on land and in the sea. This includes Kentish Flats and Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, which is the world's largest offshore wind farm.

Statement of Community Consultation and the Infrastructure Planning Commission

In 2008 new planning laws changed the way projects like KFE are dealt with. Under this new regime the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) controls the planning process for nationally significant infrastructure projects. Vattenfall will submit its proposal to the IPC following a consultation with both the community and organisations including the local authorities, Marine Management Organisation and Natural England.

We will carefully consider all responses received and when the application is made we will report to the IPC and all responders detailing how we have taken the communities' views into account.
The IPC will ask Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council for their opinion of the Vattenfall community consultation. The Councils' opinion will play an important part in whether the IPC accepts the application.

Other planning matters

When the IPC decides on KFE it will take into account any energy related National Policy Statements (NPSs) published by the UK Government. These are currently in draft but will be finalised before a decision is made. These include: Energy (EN-1); Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3); and, Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5).

Vattenfall is unaware of any other applications to the IPC or local authorities or consultations which are relevant to this proposal.

You can view a document which describes our approach to the consultation on the Vattenfall website.

If you need help to understand this proposal and the IPC process you can contact Planning Aid by calling 0870 850 9806 or visiting **www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/planning_aid_in_your_area/south_east/**

PUBLIC INFORMATION & CONSULTATION DAYS

Date & Time	Location
23 Feb 2011 2–8pm	**Kings Hall** Beacon Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 5BA
24 Feb 2011 2–8pm	**Whitstable Castle** Tower Hill, Whitstable, CT5 2BW

How you can find out more and tell Vattenfall what you think

Visit the website:
www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm
Email: mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com
Call: (0)7545 339 299
Post: Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB
Or use the feedback form and questionnaire available at the Public Information Days and public places where project documents are lodged.

This community consultation starts on 31 January, 2011 and you must reply in writing by 4 March, 2011 using the methods described above.
Please note that responses may be made public.

Help us build the best possible wind farm – get in touch

Vattenfall has already started its consultation but the formal community consultation runs from 31 January 2011 to 4 March 2011. Kentish Flats is already an important feature in the area and we value our good relations with local people.

Please look at our proposals, the preliminary environmental information, maps and other documents. All of these will be available on our website for the duration of the application and, during the consultation period at the locations noted below.

Your views will be taken into account as we complete the assessments of the KFE, finalise the design of the wind farm, and before we submit an application to the IPC.

We will also do the following to help the Thames Estuary coastal community, especially around Herne Bay and Whitstable, and other interests, express their views on our plans:

- Contact by letter homes and businesses likely to be affected by our plans
- Hold public information and consultation days in Herne Bay and Whitstable with specialist staff on hand
- Advertise our plans in local papers
- Advertise the Statement of Community Consultation in local papers in the Thames Estuary region
- Hold separate workshops and meetings with fishermen, other users of the sea and the region's businesses
- Continue meetings with the Area Member Panels and Parish Councils of Whitstable and Herne Bay
- Maintain contact with all those who have shown an interest in the project
- Continue working with local media to publicise Vattenfall's plans
- Place all relevant documents on the Vattenfall website, including a questionnaire
- Work with Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council to inform local interests of our proposals explaining how they can get involved
- Work with both Councils to identify and engage with hard-to-reach groups
- Place the PEI, maps, other relevant documents and envelopes and questionnaires in the Harbour Office, Whitstable Harbour, the Canterbury City Council office in Herne Bay, Medway Council (Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham), Swale Borough Council (Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne), Thanet District Council (Cecil Street, Margate), Maldon District Council (Princes Road, Maldon), Rochford District Council, (3-19 South Street, Rochford) Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (12th Fl, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea), Castle Point Borough Council (Kiln Road, Benfleet)

Are you having difficulty reading this advert? Please contact Mandy Broughton on 07545 339 299 or mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com for a large print version.

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VATTENFALL

Get fit to help charity mark its centenary

A CANCER charity is looking for 100 people to join its team for a half marathon in March to raise vital funds in its centenary year.

Macmillan Cancer Support was founded in 1911 by Douglas Macmillan as The Society for the Prevention and Relief of Cancer.

It has grown into a national charity, providing support for cancer sufferers and their families through its Macmillan nurses.

Events planned to celebrate the centenary this year include the team of 100 runners for the Paddock Wood half marathon on Sunday, March 27.

This race is regularly voted as one of the best races in the Runners' World Top 100 and helped the cancer charity raise more than £10,000 last year.

As well as wanting to recruit members for Macmillan's Centenary Team for the event, the charity is also offering the race number '1911' for a suggested donation of £100 for a runner wanting to commemorate the charity's anniversary while taking part.

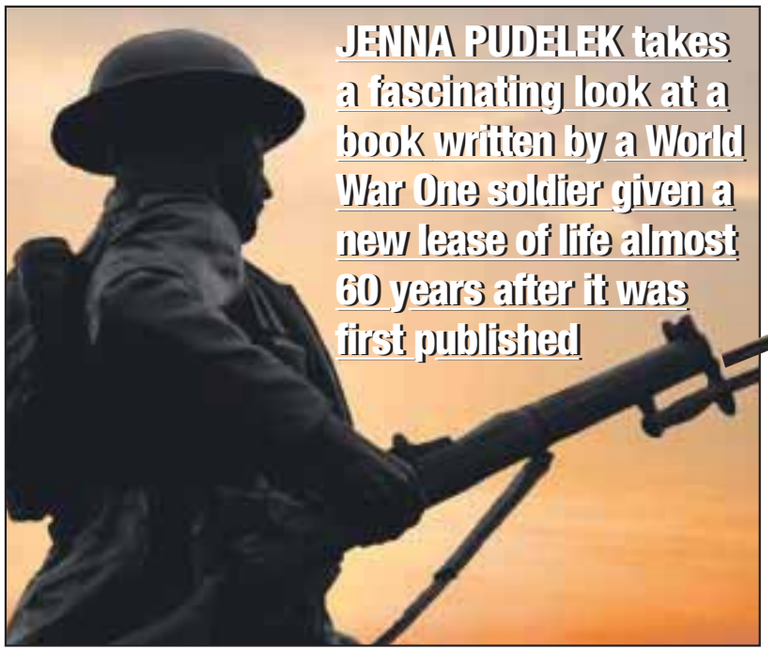
One volunteer for the charity, has decided to join the team to get fit for the new year.

She said: "Running is a brilliant way to get fit and I thought that joining Team Macmillan was a great opportunity to commit myself to something whilst helping an important cause."

If you are interested in running the Paddock Wood half marathon register first at www.paddockwoodac.co.uk then sign up as a Macmillan runner at www.macmillan.org.uk/running.

For details of other running events, go to www.macmillan.org.uk/running or contact fundraising manager Helene Poursain on 07764 503484 or hpoursain@macmillan.org.uk

Soldier's letters home reprinted, 60 years on



JENNA PUDELEK takes a fascinating look at a book written by a World War One soldier given a new lease of life almost 60 years after it was first published

THE candid memoirs of an ordinary soldier during the First World War have been republished, and brought to a wider audience.

Frederick Noakes would write moving letters home to his mother in Tunbridge Wells, sometimes on a daily basis, detailing his life on the Western Front.

When the Great War ended, he typed out the correspondence before the horrors of his experiences in the trenches faded from memory.

Eventually he turned the letters into a book, The Distant Drum, which was published privately in 1952.

Now, 92 years after the end of the conflict, his book has been re-published, as only 200 were launched in the first print run.

His niece, Carole Noakes, a musician who lives near Tunbridge Wells, wrote the foreword for the latest edition.

"What I like about the book is that it is from the point of view of someone who is not really a soldier. He was there by circumstance – he had no military mind at all, he was just plunged into it," she said.

"He was very candid and gives a very full description of going out over the top of the trench under heavy bombardment and in another chapter he describes what it's like being on night watch."

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CONSCRIPT: Frederick Noakes' letters home in the First World War have been reprinted

Ms Noakes was only five when her uncle died in 1953 from heart problems at 56. She said she remembered him as a quiet man with a good sense of humour.

"He was quite inventive and made a marble run that shot them around for 20 minutes. He also made a device to draw the curtains without getting out of bed," she said.

The author was also very determined. When the war started in 1914, Mr Noakes was too young to join the Army, but like many young men at the time, he lied about his age.

However, while his two friends, who were also too young, were accepted, he was turned down due to his chronic asthma.

Ms Noakes told how he kept re-applying and training hard to get fit, feeling it was his duty to serve his country.

When his two friends, who had worked with him at his family's draper shop in the town, were killed, it only made him more determined, she said, saying they had been the inspiration for his book.

"It was only in 1917, when they had to bring in conscription because so many men were getting killed and they lowered the medical standards, that he joined as a conscript," she said.

"He lost his asthma and never got it back, although he always said he would not recommend a world war as a cure."

Proud

She said she thought he would be proud to have his book republished for a new generation. "He had always been a bit of a writer and always a great reader. He always felt it would be more interesting to read the accounts of an ordinary Roman soldier than the general's or Caesar's because they saw it more as it really was. Notoriously, in the First World War, the generals were behind the lines."

Mr Noakes' original book was given to the Imperial War Museum, and his niece said that it had been referred to and quoted by historians in their own research on the conflict as giving a good account of life as an ordinary solider.

He wrote: "We waited in silence, each man occupied with his own secret thoughts and no doubt wrestling with his own secret fears.

"I think that half-hour was probably the worst I have ever spent. Slowly and inexorably, the minutes passed, second by second, and the time approached which might be the end of everything for me.

"All my efforts to screw up my courage, all my fatalistic self-assurances that 'what is to be, will be', became more and more useless, and hope seemed to ooze away with every second..."

The Distant Drum, published by Frontline, is available from www.pen-and-sword.co.uk, priced £15.99.

A21 closed after waste truck overturns

A BUSY road was partially closed for more than seven hours after a lorry carrying waste material flipped over and slid down a bank.

Police said a Land Rover pulling a trailer hit the central reservation on the northbound carriageway of the A21, just before the A26 slip-road near Tonbridge, at 10.30am on Thursday, January 20. A Mercedes lorry carrying non-hazardous waste also hit the central reservation trying to avoid the Land Rover and trailer.

It then flipped over, crossed the southbound carriageway and slid down a grass bank.

The lorry driver was taken to the Kent & Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells with minor injuries.

The road was closed southbound from Morley's roundabout to Vauxhall Lane until 6pm to allow the emergency services to deal with the incident.

The lorry had to be recovered and repair work was carried out on the central barrier.

One lane was also closed on the northbound side.

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Milestone for Crimestoppers in county fight against crime

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

HUNDREDS of anonymous calls tipping off police about the county's criminals have helped contribute to the recovery of £6.2 billion of drugs and property.

The staggering amount was recovered through the global work of charity Crimestoppers International over the last 20 years.

Since April, 2010, Kent's own division has received 1,100 calls leading to the subsequent capture of 198 criminals by police.

The international organisation boasts 1,200 programmes around the world, with the UK branches receiving a total of more than a million tip-offs since the charity started taking anonymous calls in 1988, which has led to 103,624 people being arrested and charged.

Steve Mellers, manager for Kent Crimestoppers, said information given by people choosing to 'make that call' had helped in cleaning up the county.

Anonymous

"We would like to thank the volunteers, partner agencies and our funders who continue to support our work and of course, members of the public who made that call," he said.

"We would encourage anyone who has information about crime or criminals in their communities to make that call, safe in the knowledge they will remain anonymous while at the same time helping to clean up their community."

Since the charity launched, billions of pounds worth of drugs and property have been recovered around the world, and the organisation is this month celebrating hitting the $10 billion, or £6.2 billion mark.

Dave Cording, director of operations at Crimestoppers UK, said: "This is an amazing milestone which I am proud that Crimestoppers UK has helped to achieve.

"Since we started taking anonymous calls in 1988, we've received more than one million calls, which have led to 103,624 people being arrested and charged, over £114 million of stolen property being recovered and illegal drugs with a street value of over £198 million seized.

"Being part of Crimestoppers International is vital and the result of $10 billion dollars – £6.2 billion pounds – recovered to date highlights that working together, we are having a significant impact on an international scale."

Globally, Crimestoppers helps solve a crime somewhere in the world every 14 minutes, and has assisted in the arrest of more than 800,000 people so far.

President of the organisation, Michael Gordon-Gibson, said volunteers worked tirelessly to collect information from the public to pass on to police.

"The majority of the people working in Crimestoppers globally are people who believe that if we all did a little bit to reduce crime in our local communities it would compound to make a big difference. Well it has, well and truly," he said.

"The information is provided, anonymously, by telephone, texting and on-line, from people in these local communities who feel safe in doing so, based on the fact that for more than 30 years their identities are and always will be protected."

To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Guide explains how history enthusiasts can add discoveries to county records

Share your ancient finds online

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL guide for history enthusiasts has been launched to help them record and share their discoveries.

It was created by Kent County Council to encourage people who metal detect to have their finds properly recorded, so they can be understood and enjoyed by others.

Last year, about 1,300 ancient objects were found by Kent residents and added to the national Portable Antiquities Scheme, a database recording archaeological finds by members of the public.

The KCC guide, which was created by finds liaison officers Jessica Bryan and Jen Jackson, introduces finders to the database and explains how to record suitable objects directly on to the catalogue.

It provides information on how to use the correct terminology when describing the artefacts, and the basic details needed about materials, manufacturing methods and types of objects.

KCC deputy cabinet member for environment, highways and waste Cllr David Brazier said: "Metal detectorists are enthusiastic about our heritage, and they want to share the discoveries they make.

"If excavated and recorded properly, their finds can be really useful to researchers."

In the guide, KCC's finds liaison team explains how to identify artefacts and sets out what is suitable to record.

"Some people will be happy to just create basic records, uploading measurements, a findspot and a photo, and let the finds liaison officer fill in the details.

"Others who have an expert knowledge may be able to fully identify and record their objects

"How the process will work will be decided on an individual basis by the Portable Antiquities Scheme team, including your finds liaison officers.

"The scheme staff will have ultimate control over the records, and reserve the right to edit or delete records."

Members of the public are urged only to record items that are more than 300 years old, and that are not from an archaeological excavation on a site.

The types of objects suitable for volunteers to record include bells, buckles, flint tools, pins, pottery fragments and buttons.

Finds such as precious metals, swords and knives, complete vessels, prehistoric metal work, bronze axes and Iron Age, Roman and Early Medieval brooches need to be shown to the find liaison officers before being put on the database.

Picture: PORTABLEANTIQUITIES

DISCOVERY: A 13th century medieval silver seal matrix found in Swanley

Half a million objects nationwide have been recorded on the system as of the last count in March, 2010.

More than 80 history enthusiasts learned about the Portable Antiquities Scheme at County Hall in Maidstone this month.

• ***For more information or to download the guide go to www.finds.org.uk/guide.***

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OUTGOING sincere 5ft 6ins lady WLTM tall, caring interesting male 70's to share life's adventure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357959**

ADORABLE black, attractive female, 37, slim, enjoys music, reading, theatre, laughter, nature, seeks genuine gent, 37-49 to share laughter and life. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815**

FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985**

BEAUTIFUL slim, black female, HIV positive, good qualities, seeks genuine, kind, white male, 30-47 to share life with. Cambridge/London/Tunbridge Well. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356493**

65YR old slim brunette, caring, loving, many interests, arts, coastal walks, animals, cooking, seeks attractive, compatible male. Dog owner in Maidstone perfect. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383676**

INEXPERIENCED pretty female 18, likes to look after herself and look good, seeks older free spirited male to look after me. Status/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358161**

SLIM attractive blonde, sensual, interesting, looking to further life's experiences with adventurous, discreet male. Any age. Can travel/accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358155**

39YRS young and up for some serious fun times. Life is far too short not to enjoy it, so what you waiting for? Call me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358153**

FEMALE 29, HIV, likes cinema, music, countryside, cosy nights in, seeks good male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357327**

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357291**

LATE 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for. I can meet anywhere in London at any time **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356995**

TALL slim brunette, just 21yrs seeks interesting older male who knows what's what, show me the ways of the world. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356969**

29YR old female, 5ft 3ins, size 12, long brown hair, seeks childless male, 29-40. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383026**

SOUTH London Lady, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. WLTM male of any age for fun, friendship and more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989**

FUN loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel and accommodate, I love a risk and having fun **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981**

FOREIGN beauty, long, long hair, 20's yrs, seeks older male who can spoil someone like me. London area. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356967**

BUBBLY outgoing nurse, (I love my uniform), fancy meeting up North London for some fun loving fun **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356983**

ATTRACTIVE lady, curvy and fun, looking for an uncomplicated fun only discreet relationship, after work etc, any area London. Discretion assured and expected please **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356991**

BABE seeks mature white male for discreet fun, you won't be sorry I know how to treat my man. Any area London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356997**

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291**

HAPPY fun loving, attractive, intelligent, educated, slim, curvy female, late 40's, WLTM caring, sincere man interested in theatre, reading, arts, nature and walks for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356613**

LONELY female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, holidays, meals out, seeks honest, genuine male for friendship initially. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356359**

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215**

SEALED with a kiss. 37yr old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543**

SUZANNE 35, beautiful blonde, seeks discreet male for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status unimportant. City area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527**

DEBBIE mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351419**

LATE 40's female, likes most things, animals, walks, cinema, seeks male 45-59 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348941**

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897**

56YR old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, N/S, likes socialising, cards, dancing, racket ball, seeks male, 50-65. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353773**

BLACK female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382910**

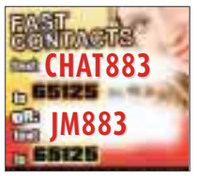
DENISE young 50, likes cuddles, nights in/out, seeks male, 37-47 for LTR. Erith. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382864**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613**

YOUNG at heart 50's tall, slim, blue eyed blonde, honest, caring, seeks tall, strong, confident, young at heart male, 50-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350337**

VICKY attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is family orientated. Essex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353033**

FIT lady, 65, thinks she's 40, N/S, loves life, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy loving, exciting times. Gravesend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111**



41YR old lady, young at heart, blue eyes, long dark hair, seeks fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346537**

YOUNG black female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382706**

MANDY 42, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, size 12-14, GSOH, caring, likes country walks, beach, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344299**

BEAUTIFUL slim, babe, 22, seeks older, generous guy 65 plus who knows how to pamper. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348545**

ATTRACTIVE outgoing 64yr old lady, seeks genuine, retired, solvent, professional male for friendship. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351929**

CHRISSY 55, N/S, 5ft 2ins, likes seaside, music, boot sales, iron age history, seeks genuine, reliable, N/S male, 50-60 for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 345551**

CLARE 5ft 10ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 318103**

SINGLE mum, 39, likes most things, seeks male with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349999**

KATHY 62, slim, loving, caring, GSOH, lonely, no one knows I am out there, please call, looking for male late 50's. Canterbury **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380112**

CARLY 5ft 6ins, blonde, size 12, easygoing, seeks male. Rochester **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381574**

42YR old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577**

PENNY slim, sporty, attractive, excellent company, enjoys the outdoors, cycling, walks, sailing, theatre, travel, seeks intelligent, like-minded gent for friendship, maybe more. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351273**

COME live with me. Medic, petite, stunning, long hair, seeks very rich, tactile, generous gent. I will care for you forever. Essex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351333**

ADORABLE beauty, curvy, caring, down to earth, trained lawyer, seeks good man for friendship, companionship, maybe more. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351337**

OLD fashioned girl, 49, fun, friendly, seeks mature male for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192**

JANET 52, kind, caring, honest, loving, likes cinema, nights in, meals out, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347217**

64YR old female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581**

JANET young 62, petite, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 57-61. Tunbridge Wells **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381176**

JACKIE homely, 52, seeks genuine, homely male, 50-65 for caring, sharing and spoiling. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350005**

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimmish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinklies. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757**

BARBARA divorced, active, 5ft 7ins, dark hair/eyes, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, holidays, seeks intelligent male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346745**

KAREN 34, sexy leggy brunette who knows there's more to life than just work! WLTM confident professional male for time off meets in London and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342525**

NESSA 58, GSOH, caring, happy, loving, seeks honest, reliable male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346555**

DAISY sexy, voluptuous, leggy, blonde, seeks male, 76 plus who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348889**

EXCITING 41yr old, curvy, blue eyes, likes astrology, nights out, park walks, boat trips, seeks fun loving guy for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339533**

BOB 52, 5ft 11ins, easygoing, likes most things, seeks single, N/S female, 47-58. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357807**

6FT 3ins male, honest, genuine, seeks likeminded queen, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383796**

TALL male, GSOH, friendly, cheerful, fun, reliable, trustworthy, late 50's, seeks young female, up to 44 to support and treasure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376438**

YOUNG 53 easygoing, affectionate, 6ft, N/S, animal lover, varied interests, GSOH, looking for a soul mate. Northfleet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355085**

TALL lively male, not ugly, not handsome, expects to be excepted and move onward and upward in relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357934**

SEVENOAKS 48yr old male, 5ft 8ins, brown hair, medium build, looking for someone sincere, 30-48 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371016**

PROFESSIONAL male, 63, assertive, many interests, seeks curvy, non assertive lady for special relationship that offers something different. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357723**

PAKISTAN male 50, 6ft, medium build, seeks lady, 50-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357711**

HONEST male, 34, confident, 6ft, shaved head, athletic, seeks slim, attractive, honest female for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357489**

44YR old single business man, 6ft, balding, likes music, sports, walks, seeks female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333767**

FUN fit, 55 and friendly, refreshingly different, values forged out of steel, certain beyond my years except in relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349342**

DAVID 61, proud of it, faceable, poetic, likes participation, disciplined, adventurous. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357791**

DARREN 40, loving, caring, seeks female, 25-50 for lots of TLC. Single mum. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364078**

KEITH 57, tall, likes bowling, paranormal, seeks kind, honest, loyal female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357651**

44YR old guy 5ft 10ins, medium build, blue eyes, likes music, concerts, cinema, meals out, seeks female for romance leading to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357679**

WHITE male, 52, 6ft, medium build, likes meals out, cinema, nights out, seeks genuine, kind, loving, relaxed lady for 1-2-1 relationship and to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348235**

WILLIAM young 65, fit, active, N/S, non drinker, seeks Christian female who enjoys the simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350833**

WHITE male, 37, medium build, 5ft 7ins, green/blue eyes, short hair, N/S, non drinker, seeks young West European female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341923**

ADRIAN 43, likes body building, weight lifting, motorbikes, cars, fishing, seeks female, 30-40 for fun and friendship. Tunbridge Wells **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380066**

CHRIS good looking, young 45yr old male, GSOH, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, easygoing, smart, loving, up for good times, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357223**

6FT 2ins black guy, seeks female for no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383028**

TAKE a chance on me. Warm, sincere, young at heart, N/S 64yr old widower, 5ft 9ins, medium build, seeks sophisticated lady for loving relationship. London area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357525**

SILVER fox. Wealthy, attractive 44yr old male, seeks female to pamper for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357445**

HANDSOME successful male, 5ft 9ins, tanned, educated, solvent, good lifestyle, seeks attractive lady for friendship, fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357391**

ATTRACTIVE male, 6ft, seeks sweet, seductive lady for hassle free LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342829**

RAMSGATE male, 5ft 5ins, young 60's, caring, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357297**

SEAN 42, no ties, loving, affectionate, romantic, lots of TLC, seeks someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357195**

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks young female to wine and dine. Gillingham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353231**

HELPFUL attractive, young 43 male, 5ft 7ins, homely, family type, seeks pretty, petite, slim female for everlasting love. Dartford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357207**

ANDREW 59, seeks similar aged female for friendship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357261**

MALE 53, good looking, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357127**

GOOD natured 50yr old male teacher, pleasant nature, positive, seeks female friend, any age for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357123**

47YR old male, 6ft 2ins, well built, seeks special lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351497**

YOUNG 40yr old dark haired male, well built, romantic, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357017**

Men Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to someone look no further TXT **CHAT883** to **65**25 for chat with pictures, fun and safe service.

BLACK male, 46, 5ft 11ins, own home/teeth, likes working out, music, seeks female, any race for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383860**

HANDSOME Knight 39, slim, seeks nice, young at heart lady, 30-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358051**

MALE 50, medium build, 5ft 8ins, quiet, friendly, genuine, honest, likes most things, seeks genuine female to share life with. Sevenoaks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383770**

PETER genuine sincere, easygoing, attractive, likes meals out, nights in, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358069**

YOUNG male, 33, new to area, seeks mature, adventurous female friend for fun evenings in. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358063**

STOCKY male, green eyes, GSOH, likes nights in/out, gym, cinema, meals, seeks large lady size 24 plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357971**

MALE seeks female, 62-65 for friendship, maybe more. Herne Bay. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383474**

STEVE 6ft 2ins, well built, dark hair, blue eyes, likes the outdoor life, good food/wine, seeks similar honest fun female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357949**

NEW Year new man. Young looking 48, rugged good looks, dark hair, very fit, charismatic, charming, seeks slim, white lady full of life for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358033**

LOVING genuine male, 48, full of life and love, seeks slim-medium build female/soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358023**

EASTERN promise, gent 45, professional, down to earth, VGSOH, enjoys wining/dining, socialising, etc, seeks female 20-45 for genuine friendship/quality time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357967**

BLACK male, 43, kind, caring, easygoing, seeks white female, 39-48 for relationship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341075**

ATTRACTIVE blond blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, extremely genuine, sincere, OHAC, GSOH, seeks warm, sincere, female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357999**

5FT 10ins male, stocky, GSOH, seeks large female, 20-34 for relationship. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354809**

MALE 50, medium build, 5ft 8ins, laidback, friendly, genuine, honest, seeks genuine female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357857**

JEFFERY 52, white, 6ft 2ins, medium build, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, seeks single, genuine black female for 1-2-1 relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348663**

Gay Seeking

MALE 54, medium build, likes wrestling, seeks male for wrestling bouts. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357785**

SENIOR bi male, N/S, clean shaven, seeks similar bi male in local area. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357781**

KEVIN 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, medium build, toned, young boyish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for adventurous fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355984**

FRIENDLY male, 54, looks younger, medium build, N/S, seeks male, 25-60 for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383426**

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LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817001, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

In it together? What a joke

So we are all in this together are we Mr Carter, the extremely rich David Cameron, you with your obscene salary and those working for the minimum wage or the pensioner struggling to get by.

It would be funny if it wasn't serious.

Can the readers of KoS be made aware of Mr Carter's salary? Yes, I've already heard him flannel on Radio Kent. No reprise please.

Footballers are vastly overpaid but it doesn't come out of my purse. Even the correctly maligned bankers don't impinge on my modest income unless they are nationalised.

The remuneration of County Hall and town hall fat cats comes directly out of the pockets of council tax payers.

All in it together? You should go on the stage Mr Carter. A good script writer could have a field day, but I'm not laughing.

Ian Macmillan
Ash, Canterbury

OPINION: SYSTEM NEEDS UPGRADING

Minister for Disabled People **MARIA MILLER** invites you to give your opinion on proposals to bring Disability Living Allowance into the 21st century

OUR commitment to help support disabled people live independent lives runs at the heart of our welfare reforms. It is vital that the right support reaches the people who need it, in the most effective and sustainable way.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) gives essential support to many people, including thousands of people in Kent. I know from the letters I receive from local MPs that disabled people tell us that the claim form is too long, too complex and unclear, leading to widespread inconsistencies in the way DLA supports disabled people with similar needs in different parts of the country.

As if that were not enough, there is no straightforward way of reviewing DLA. People with short-term conditions can be treated in the same way as those with life-long conditions – with no in-built system of periodic review. Indeed 20 per cent of those who were awarded DLA in 1992 have never had their needs reviewed and more than two million people are given the benefit indefinitely.

This means that too often people can get the benefit and then not have any contact with the department about whether they still it need it or not, or even whether they could be eligible for other help and support.

We support the principles of DLA – providing a non-means-tested cash benefit to help people, both in and out of work, with the extra costs incurred by their disability or health condition.

But the current system is long overdue for reform, which is why we are proposing to replace it with the Personal Independence Payment.

I want to reassure the thousands of people in Kent who receive DLA that their views will be reflected in any changes we make. We are undertaking a nationwide consultation with disabled people and representative groups to make sure this support is better focused and goes to people who need it, and that periodic review is part of the assessment process.

Our proposals include an objective assessment of need, which we are developing with the help of disability organisations and disabled people. The new system will also allow us to reassess those on DLA over time – something that is lacking under the current system – to ensure everyone receives the correct amount as their needs change.

We are developing the assessment with a group of independent specialists in health, social care and disability, which includes disabled people, to make sure we get it right. It will not just be based on a medical model of disability, focusing solely on a person's health condition or disability but will look at their ability to carry out a range of key everyday activities.

The current deeply flawed and complicated system has resulted in spiralling costs over the years. In Kent the number of people receiving DLA has soared by 55 per cent in just eight years, from 42,690 to 66,110. Nationally the numbers receiving DLA has jumped to nearly 3.2m from about 2.5m eight years ago. Expenditure this year is forecast at £12 billion – the equivalent of the Department for Transport's entire budget.

This is why we are proposing major reforms to better reflect the needs of disabled people. By focusing resources on those who need them, we will continue to provide essential support for disabled people while delivering a 20 per cent reduction in future DLA expenditure – not by taking money away from disabled people, but by reducing expenditure to the level it was in 2009-10.

We want to know what people think about our proposals and that's why we are inviting disabled people and other interested parties to let us know their views. The public consultation is on the DWP website and readers have until February 14 to let us know what they think.

We will help people lead full, active and independent lives by providing cash support. But we will also ensure we deliver a fairer, more consistent and sustainable benefit targeted at disabled people who face the greatest challenges within a benefit system that is fit for the 21st century.

KOS media COMMENT

Don't give speed cameras a chance

SPEED cameras are always going to be a sore point for drivers, but to find out that most of them are not even working is a bit of a blow.

Not so much because we have to drive slowly, but because it seems there is a postcode lottery in terms of which areas they work in and where they don't.

The camera operators say even if they don't have film in they still deter people from speeding.

But you can't help but feel cheated.

On the other hand they have a point. If there are speed cameras, regardless of whether or not they have film in, no-one is going to drive fast. And no-one takes the risk they might not have film in them.

They are there for a reason and as annoying as it is if you get flashed, they don't if you drive past within the speed limit.

Speed cameras wouldn't be so much of an issue to people if it didn't feel as though it was another way the Government was getting money out of the public.

So the best way to protest is to drive at the right speed and then Whitehall won't be getting any more money out of drivers.

And even more importantly, slowing down might save a life.

Workmates' biggest ever pay day bonus

EVERY day we hear about cuts and how the country's economy is in a bad way, so it's good to hear that a group of factory workers have scooped a win on the National Lottery.

And not just any win, but a life-changing win which for one of them in particular, who was made redundant just before Christmas, will ease the financial pressures significantly.

So congratulations to them, though no doubt there will be plenty of readers who will be wishing it was them.

But with part of Kent being one of the luckiest places for lottery players, there's still hope for us yet.

It's time to talk about dangers

If a relative or friend told you they had been updating their Facebook page while driving, you'd think they were mad – yet sadly, this kind of behaviour is becoming increasingly common.

Making phone calls, texting, logging on to the internet and tweeting while driving aren't the only stupid things that drivers have been spotted doing. We've had members of the public contact us to say they've seen motorists trying to eat yoghurts, applying lipstick while doing 70mph, filming passengers using their mobiles, even shaving while on a phone.

It's worrying that people still don't take seriously the dangers posed by using a phone while driving, or doing anything else which prevents them from concentrating on the road. Such behaviour can be devastating: in the last three years, four people have died and nearly 60 have been injured, some of them seriously, on Kent's roads in mobile phone-related crashes.

Studies have proved that using a hand-held mobile phone while driving causes a distraction, impairs your control of the vehicle and reduces your ability to react to what is happening around you.

Research has also shown that you are far more likely to have a crash if you use your mobile while driving.

Unfortunately, there are still people out there who think that using a phone won't distract them, or that they will never get caught. That's why the Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership has launched a campaign to remind drivers that our safety camera vans will be out on the county's roads enforcing mobile phone and also seat-belt laws, as well as speed.

We want to remind people that it is illegal to use a hand-held mobile when driving and we hope motorists will take heed of this message. If you're still unsure about what's legal and what isn't, visit the website, www.kmscp.org to find out more.

We'd also like to hear readers' thoughts about reckless driver behaviour by encouraging them to write a letter to this newspaper. How do you feel about drivers using mobiles? In what circumstances have you seen drivers using them? What other crazy things have you seen drivers doing that could or indeed has affected their concentration?

Perhaps by starting a debate on this issue, motorists who continue to flout the law will finally get the message that every time they pick up that phone, they are putting lives at risk – including their own.

Katherine Barrett, Communications Officer, Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership

Recovery fee is the answer

In connection with your article on January 16, 'Tug savings are 'drop in the ocean'.

I am not in a position to take a stance, either way, on the benefits, short or long term, of all proposed cutbacks in public financing, but on the matter of the removal of the safety tugs from the Straights of Dover may I be allowed to voice the following opinion.

It is clear that those in charge have no business acumen, if they had they would see that the service could be made self-financing.

If my car breaks down and I am not a member of the AA or RAC then I must pay to be towed home and for that service I am charged. As a member of the RAC I am provided with a service for which I pay through my membership fee.

With the current emergency tug service being a joint venture between the France, who are not known for throwing the euros about, and the UK and as this service is available to all shipping in the Channel, could there not be a very small charge made on each vessel passing through. The charge could be made on a sliding scale subject to size and displacement and this would cover the running cost of the service and provide funds for the upkeep and onward development of the service.

It is assumed that on the occasions tugs are called a charge is levied to cover all the costs involved on that particular rescue, if not then the management of the service needs to be reprimanded for both wasting and mismanaging this taxpayer funded service.

If it is considered a workable idea to place Dover Docks into public control then I see no problem in this service being developed into a community owned service and run as an organised business and not as it would seem to be a big boys' toy.

Bernard Bibby, Sittingbourne

PM Cameron's out of touch

It would seem that David Cameron is hell-bent on refusing to face any kind of vote about the EU.

Once again he has arranged for a discussion to be talked out in Parliament.

It would be a real bonus if David Davis (who should be the leader of the Conservatives) were to put his weight behind the people and join with those people who are demanding a referendum.

He has quite a strong following as well as the fact David Cameron is very wary of him because he knows Davis is much more in tune with the people than either him or many in his Cabinet.

David Davis does not have millions to fall back on should things go pear shaped, and is very aware about the things ordinary people are concerned about, the main one being our submitting this country to EU rule.

I don't quite know who David Cameron is running this country for, but it is certainly not for the indigenous people of Great Britain.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

AKERS
Phil and Debbie of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the early but safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Isla Emma-Louise Joyce Akers, on 6th January 2010.

CHILCOTT
Sarah and Richard Chilcott are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Sophie Elisabeth and sister to Thomas. She was born on 11th January 2011, weighing 7lb 11oz. Welcome sweetheart, we love you very much xx.

COOK-NEVILLE
Steven & Claire would like to celebrate the birth of their daughter Gracie Margaret, born on the 30th December 2010 at Maidstone Hospital.

EMANUELSSON
Karl and Rohini Emanuelsson celebrate the birth of their son Tegh Kang Emanuelsson, weighing 8lb 9oz, on the 13th December 2010.

GAUCI
Ivan and Marie are happy to welcome small angel Arthur on the earth. He was born on 6th January 2011 in the William Harvey Hospital Ashford.

HOPTHROW
Tim and Georgina of Canterbury are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Grace Elizabeth Hopthrow, on 8th January 2011, weighing 8lb.

KEMP
Samuel James Kemp born to proud parents, Joanne and Glen Kemp, on 6th January 2011 at Maidstone Hospital.

LANGMAID
Neil and Tamsin of Faversham are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Eden Amelia Langmaid, on 17th January 2011. A new sister for Finn.

LEE
Shane Kiah Raymond born on 1st January 2011, weighing 5lb 11oz, to proud parents Jeanie and Duane. A little brother for Dulcie and Mary.

MILLER
Riley Steven Miller born on 10th January 2011, weighing 8lb 9oz. Son to Laurence Miller and Jasmine Hickmott in Maidstone.

MORSE
Dan and Elisa are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter Alice Ellen on 12th January 2011. A sister for Emily.

OCKELFORD
Emma Taggart and Joseph Ockelford celebrate the birth of their daughter Amelia Louise Ockelford on 14th January 2011.

DEATHS

COSTA
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Gerry on 12th January 2011, aged 73. Much loved by his wife Viki, their children Janine and Marcel, their son-in-law Dan and daughter-in-law Tilly, "Yayo" to Ben, Lili, Jay and Dylan. Lifelong supporter of good causes, photographer, raconteur and former fruit and vegetable importer, he will be greatly missed but never forgotten. Donations, in lieu of flowers to the Pilgrim's Hospice of Thanet, Ramsgate Road, Margate, CT9 4AD.

JENNER
Irene Alice (nee Waddell) passed peacefully away at her home on January 16th 2011 aged 94 years, wife of the late Albert Jenner. A much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. The funeral service takes place at St Peters and St Pauls Church, Dymchurch, on 28th January at 11:15, to be followed by a family cremation at Hawkinge. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Dungeness RNLI, c/o Romney Marsh Funeral Services, George Lane, New Romney.

MATHER
Pat (Elizabeth) Mather of Cliftonville died peacefully on the 1st January 2011. Funeral Service at Thanet Crematorium at 3.20 pm 3rd February.

PEPPER
Alan Pepper loving husband, father and grandpop, sadly passed away 18th January at Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury. Funeral held at Barham Crematorium, Wednesday 2nd February, 12.40. Flowers or donations to Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury.

TREML
Dorothy Winifred of Hythe, Kent, passed away peacefully on 22nd January 2011, aged 97 years. Will be sadly missed by family and friends.

WEST
To celebrate the life of Jim West of Maidstone who has sadly passed away aged 84. Dearly loved husband of Mue West. Funeral service at Vinters Park on 31st January at 3.30. Family flowers only and donations to Heart of Kent Hospice via Doves Funerals.

Bedgebury should remain public

Selling off national forests is environmental vandalism. Bedgebury is a much-loved forest and an asset to the county. We cannot let it be sold to the highest bidder and lost to the country forever.

The coalition seems intent on selling off our national assets and it seems that even forests could go on eBay. They are too valuable to lose. They need to be accessible to the public and used to enhance biodiversity, not seen as a quick route to cash. Since our forest cover is less than many other countries in northern Europe, we should be looking at ways to extend their area. New areas of fast growing species, for example on set-aside agricultural land, could be used for biomass energy.

With no support from the public to the forest sale, as 84 per cent of people are in favour of forests remaining in public ownership and only two per cent not, the Government has no mandate to do this.

Stuart Jeffery, Chair of Kent Green Party

Nominate a lottery project in your area

We are calling on KoS readers to put forward their favourite lottery-funded projects for recognition in the National Lottery Awards 2011.

This is the annual search to find the UK's favourite lottery-funded projects and recognise the dedication of those behind them. Lottery players raise £28 million every week for projects both large and small that make a difference to people, places and communities.

We would like to hear about lottery-funded projects that have had a positive impact on the area and made a real difference to people's lives.

The National Lottery Awards have seven categories, each reflecting the main areas of lottery funding: arts, education, environment, health, heritage, sport and voluntary/charity.

The projects that make it to the finals of the National Lottery Awards will receive national recognition at a star-studded event broadcast on BBC One later this year. They will also have a chance to win a £2,000 cash prize.

Visit www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk to find out more. Entries must be received by 5pm on Friday, February 18.

Rebecca Gourley
The National Lottery Awards

Child poverty is being made worse

The latest findings by Family Action, which reveal that more babies will be born into poverty as a result of tax and benefit changes, cannot be dismissed lightly.

This research challenges the Government's promise that deficit reduction would not increase child poverty. By making it more difficult for a child to access the stability and well-being that comes in part from a healthy diet, decent housing, early years education and supportive relationships, a child will struggle to grow up and contribute to society as fully as they would have done had they been in receipt of such support.

History teaches us that growth, be it personal or economic, does not come without investment. If we are to remain a competitive player in the 21st century, we cannot allow this human capital to be squandered.

Rob Tolan
Head of policy and research,
Elizabeth Finn Care

Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent

Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent 2011 Campaign

'County has the skills we need for success'

Plan to invest in apprenticeships

THOUSANDS of apprenticeships could be created from a 15-year investment plan being considered by councils in east Kent.

Dover, Folkestone, Canterbury and Thanet are all set to benefit from the East Kent Local Investment Plan 2011-2026, which aims to bring jobs and housing to the region on behalf of a wide range of community partners, including Kent County Council and the Government's Homes and Communities Agency.

Based on a best-case scenario of £300 million investment through the project, an estimated 2,000 apprenticeships could be created in the region.

However, even a much lower sum of £69m would still create about 460 apprenticeships.

The plan looks at key strategic priorities and major projects for each district to bring investment, jobs and housing for the future. It has been brought together to inform future investment decisions for the region, including through the new Local Enterprise Partnership and other programmes, where appropriate.

Dover council is the first to approve the plans, which leader Cllr Paul Watkins said he was "delighted" about.

He added: "It is vital that we continue to work with all partners to make the strongest case for future investment for Dover district and east Kent.

"The strategic and local priorities from a Dover perspective add value to east Kent, and a number of local schemes are already construction-ready and will continue to bring major private sector investment to the area.

"The work already undertaken in a range of areas in Dover – including having growth point status and our local development framework in place – has set firm foundations for growth, and with the approval of the local investment plan we are looking forward to seeing continued regeneration and investment for the future."

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

THE chairman of the Kent Association of Young Entrepreneurs (KAYE) has urged employers to pull together and help grow the county's workforce.

David Ing is the latest name to back this newspaper's Keep Kent Working campaign, praising the initiative for its goal of bringing businesses closer together for the benefit of prospective employees throughout the region.

"There's a lot to be said for looking after your own community, and Keep Kent Working fits in with that ethos," he said.

"Kent has such a rich source of talented people and such a diverse range of businesses, so why would anybody need to go outside of it? We should all be working together for the greater good of the county.

"KAYE works closely with the University of Kent and with Canterbury Christ Church, and it's a shocking statistic that something like 80 per cent of graduates will end up leaving Kent. We're trying to encourage them to stay here and back other businesses in the county, and that goes hand-in-hand with the Keep Kent Working campaign."

The Kent Association of Young Entrepreneurs was launched to support young-minded business people who are either running their own company, seriously considering starting one, or working their way up the corporate ladder.

Originally aimed at young people, Mr Ing admits the recession has had a big effect on the age range of its 200-plus members.

"We've got some members who are over 40 and even over 50, and the main reason is that people have been made redundant and decided to go out on their own. But the principles KAYE has are the same, no matter how old you are.

"We're there to provide support, guidance and access to other people for entrepreneurs, because it's good to know there are other people out there who are in the same boat as you. It's safety in numbers."

SUPPORT: David Ing is urging employers to source their workforce from within Kent

As well as being the chairman of KAYE, Mr Ing is also managing director of the Maidstone-based marketing agency CFA.

He is also a member of the Institute of Directors' Kent executive committee and of the Kent Ambassadors group.

Mr Ing was in positive mood when asked how well-placed he thought the county was for the inevitable economic recovery.

He said: "I think it's well positioned. We've got great links to Europe and the Olympics are just around the corner.

"The only negative is that businesses in the county are not as good at bringing people together, and that's where I think the Keep Kent Working campaign can help."

Visit www.kaye.uk.com for more details.

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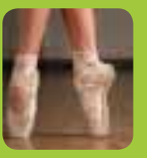

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Scholarship scheme benefits art students

STUDENTS at the University for the Creative Arts are reaping the benefits of scholarships worth up to £15,000 each.

The economic climate means scholarships – paid for by alumni, governors and friends of the university – make a big difference to those suffering from financial difficulties.

Seventeen students are taking advantage of the scheme, having been awarded placements across its campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester, and Epsom and Farnham in Surrey.

"The Government's proposed rise in tuition fees means it is vital for us to offer scholarships to those who may not be able to afford to go to university," said head of development Matthew Horton.

"We have begun developing our awards now, so that we have a generous portfolio of scholarships and bursaries available by 2012 to help as many students as possible to fulfil their potential."

UCA chairman and former MasterChef host Loyd Grossman is one of several people to have made significant contributions to the scholarship programme, as has the university's vice-chancellor, Professor Elaine Thomas.

The scholarships are awarded to undergraduate and postgraduate students from any background, who are judged to have shown outstanding creative potential in their chosen field in the arts.

Jacquie Brown, from Broadstairs, was able to progress from a foundation course at UCA Canterbury to a degree in graphic communication at UCA Farnham, thanks to the financial support of Loyd Grossman.

PRACTICAL HELP: Jacquie Browne with her benefactor, Loyd Grossman

She said: "Finding out I had won the scholarship greatly increased my confidence, but practically it has helped me to afford the extras I need for my course, which is very material-intensive.

"All of this is helping me enhance my work."

Details of the university's scholarships for 2011 will be released at the end of February.

Visit www.ucreative.ac.uk/scholarships.

Open day for graduates

THE University of Kent is holding a postgraduate open day from 11am-3pm on Saturday, February 5.

Prospective students are invited to attend so they can learn about the funding schemes available to them, including the university's multi-million pound postgraduate scholarship fund.

The event at the Canterbury campus will also provide information about the extensive range of part-time and full-time courses on offer, with visitors able to tour the accommodation and study facilities.

Professor Diane Houston, dean of the university's graduate school, said: "Postgraduate education is of increasing importance both to students and universities.

"I hope our open day will help inform the choices of graduates who would like to study for academic interest or to further their careers."

Visit www.kent.ac.uk/opendays to register your interest in the open day.

Students enlist just for day

PUBLIC service students received a taste of life in the Army as part of their Level 2 BTEC Diploma.

The Canterbury College youngsters spent a day with troops based at Shorncliffe Barracks, near Folkestone, where they learned techniques such as low-level tactics, moving in formation and close-quarter combat skills.

Of the 15 who took part, more than half said the experience had given them a real interest in pursuing a career in the armed forces.

Public services co-ordinator Howard Gilbert said: "They worked hard for their Army instructors and supported each other to overcome any challenges.

"It is always good to see how students perform outside the classroom, and they certainly rose to the occasion."

COMBAT: Students' taste of Army life

Courses within the college's public services department involve activity-based teaching and learning and are led by staff from the forces and emergency services.

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Visit www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone for more information.

01634 402020

MidKent College
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Apprenticeship Week
7-11 February 2011

THANET COLLEGE

Summary of events in Thanet:

Monday 7th February
- Launch of Training Solutions Facebook site
- College Apprenticeship Graduation event

Apprenticeships

Tuesday 8th February
- Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'

Wednesday 9th February
- Principal Graham Razey - live interview on Academy FM at 11.15am
- Drop-in session about Apprenticeships - College Library 12 midday until 5.00pm

Thursday 10th February
- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm

Friday 11th February
- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm
- Thanet College hosting the Coastal College Consortium for the 'Employer Engagement Task Group'

Saturday 12th February
- Apprenticeship Bus will be at Westwood Cross from 8.30am-6.00pm.
- Launch of a range of new Thanet College Apprenticeship programmes

Events run by Training Solutions
At Work - Through Work - For Work
01843 605032 / training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk

Powered by KOS Media

JobsforKent.co.uk

Senior & General Appointments 56-57
Public Sector Vacancies 58-59
Public Notices 59-60

TO ADVERTISE: TELEPHONE: **01303 817040** | FAX: **01303 817004** | EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk**

- Accountancy
- Administration, Secretarial, PA
- Agriculture, Forestry, Environment
- Art and Design
- Catering, Hospitality
- Construction, Architecture, Surveyors
- Customer Service, Call Centre
- Domestic
- Education, Teacher, School
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities
- Estate Agency, Property
- Graduate, Trainees
- Health and Safety, Security, Defence
- HR, Recruitment
- Industrial, Warehouse, Factory
- IT, Internet, Telecoms
- Insurance, Banking, Finance
- Legal
- Leisure, Tourism, Travel
- Management Consultancy
- Management, Senior Positions
- Marketing, Advertising
- Motor Trade, Driver
- Not for Profit, Charities
- Nursing, Medicine, Care Work
- Other
- Print, Packaging, Distribution
- PR, Media, Journalism
- Public Sector, Social Services
- Retail, Wholesale, Sales
- Scientific and Pharmaceutical, Research
- Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Operations Manager (Part Time)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE COMMUNITY

We are looking to recruit a part time Operations Manager for our office based in Ashford, Kent.

Ashford Mediation Service, a registered charity, plays a vital role in the community helping people to resolve conflict situations. We are looking for an individual who will be able to maintain a high standard of service delivery and is able to identify and maximise commercial opportunities for sustainable business growth.

Working knowledge of mediation is preferred but not essential. You will have management, marketing and business development skills and experience of managing and motivating volunteers.

Salary for the post is pro rata £28,860 p.a. You will be required to work 24 hours per week. Some evening work may be required. Driving license is essential. This post is subject to a Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure Check

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity please send your C.V with a covering letter to: **PO Box 482, Ashford, Kent. TN23 9PY**

Closing date is **Friday 18th February 2011**

AMS Ashford Mediation Service

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

GARDLINE ENVIRONMENTAL

Coastal Services Division

The Coastal Services Division of Gardline Environmental Ltd provides a variety of survey and windfarm services and specialist vessels for contracts and charters. These include Windfarm Turbine Transfers, Hydrographic Surveys and Guard Boat duties. Due to the award of some major long-term contracts across the UK, we are seeking persons suitable for the following positions:

SKIPPERS

The ideal candidate must possess previous experience at sea on 10m to 20m vessels, using a variety of propulsion methods. As a minimum, an RYA Powerboat Level 2 Certificate and an ENG-1 medical certificate are required. A VHF, First Aid and sea survival certificates would be an advantage as would experience of training support staff in boat operations. We have several experienced support staff as well as those beginning their careers at sea, so your ability to encourage and guide is important.

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate their boat handling skills, leadership qualities and problem solving abilities Your calmness, confidence and initiative will be key to your success as one of our skippers within our team.

ABLE SEAMEN

In this role we are looking for individuals who have commercial and or leisure boat experience in an all-round support role. Your positive attitude and approach to the work and practical learning will be key to your success and progression. You must be someone who can accurately follow instructions and take responsibility for given tasks, working closely with and providing support to the Skipper regarding all aspects of vessel operations.

Working for Coastal Services, is physically demanding and will require nationwide travel and periods of time away at sea. We do operate on rotations appropriate to contract, usually 16 days on (including travel) and 14 days off, but for ALL the above roles you will need to be flexible and willing to work outside the core business hours on occasions. Ideally we are looking to recruit people from the localities of our contracts, but this is not essential.

If you are interested in working with us, please send your CV and Cover Letter via e-mail detailing your experience, skills and qualifications along with your availability to Allan Tucker, Project Manager at allan.tucker@gardline.com

Closing date: Thursday 10th February 2011

Do you love your children?

Have you got room in your heart, your home and your life?

We need short and long term foster carers who can give a child the support they need through difficult times.

Pay starts at **£325 per week** and lots of training is given.

We offer all of our carers two weeks paid break per year plus 4 hours sitting each week. If you are interested in fostering and would like to be part of what we do, please call us now at Family Matters Fostering to arrange a local interview.

01303 210029 www.fosteringagency.com

familymatters FOSTERING LTD

Deputy Manager

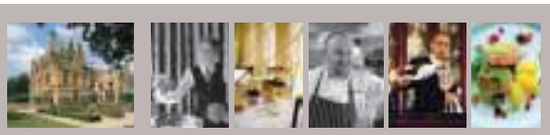
Belmont Sandbanks Care Homes

Residential EMI Care Home

New Romney – Kent / Full Time Permanent Role
Rates are Negotiable based on experience.

Exciting role for development - Deputy Manager Role at Local Care Home group.
The role is within an EMI Care home for the elderly.
The role is to develop alongside the Clinical Manager and existing Deputy Manager with the view to gaining experience to gain a more senior position in the future.
The role is for a person who wants a challenge and further their career in care.
Has to have experience in working in a supervisory or co-ordinator role with care staff, awareness of Dementia and NVQ Level3.
CV on submission and references required at point of acceptance. CRB will be carried out.

To apply please send your CV to: adam@belmontsandbanks.co.uk
Visit our website: www.belmontsandbanks.co.uk



Hand Picked Hotels is a collection of 17 luxury country house hotels throughout the United Kingdom and Channel Islands.

HR ADMINISTRATOR

Based Brandshatch Place Hotel | £18k

Responsible for all HR administration for a designated group of properties, your duties will include setting up and updating personnel records in line with audit and data protection requirements, as well as administering the employee benefits system and assisting with recruitment of new staff members.

We are seeking a confident, pro-active and highly organised individual with excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office to deliver a first-class HR admin service.

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Maternity cover | Based Sevenoaks | £17.5k

Working as part of a busy, friendly team, you will provide ledger and accounting support to both our head office and individual hotels, including supervising bought and sales ledgers, cash book reconciliations and assisting with month end procedures. Data reporting on a daily, weekly and monthly basis will also form part of your role.

You will have strong numeric skills, good Excel knowledge and demonstrate excellent attention to detail. Previous knowledge of Opera and Sage is desirable.

Please apply with CV and covering letter with current salary details to: Keely Dobinson at kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk

Closing date: 11th February 2011.

www.handpicked.co.uk

Hand PICKED HOTELS — BUILT FOR PLEASURE

Experienced
Timber Sales/Sales Person
Required
40 hours + a week · Wage negotiable
Must have own transport due to location

Please send your CV to: glenn@orlestoneoak.co.uk
For more information, please view our website:
www.orlestoneoak.co.uk

S. Simmonds & Son Ltd
require a
Part-Time Manager
for the School Uniform shop
at Holmewood House School, Langton Green
4.5 hours per week, extra in school holidays.
Apply to: Marion West, 64 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2UG
01892 510123
marion@simmonds-ltd.com

WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home.

Full training and support available.
01622 671716

St John Ambulance

ST JOHN HOME
have a vacancy for a
Trained Nurse
for Friday Night Duty
to join our team caring for 18 elderly people
Excellent working environment and rates of pay.
For application form phone Matron on 01227 273043

HAZEL MOTORS

We are urgently looking to recruit a
Fully Qualified and experienced
Vehicle Technician / Mechanic
to join our service team.
Duties to include vehicle servicing, repairs, diagnostic work and tyre fitting etc, on a wide range of cars and light commercials. An MOT tester would be preferred but is not essential. Applicant must be punctual, reliable and hold a full driving licence. Friendly family business, established for over 40 years in Chatham.

Please email your CV to
info@hazelmotors.co.uk or call 01634 406664

Part Time Medical Receptionist

We need a new person to join our busy, friendly reception team at the Town Medical Centre, Sevenoaks.
Experience not essential but calm, unflappable nature absolutely necessary! If you would like to work 15 hours (3 days) a week in this rewarding job as part of a happy, progressive practice, please apply in writing with your CV to:
Keith Salter, Practice Manager
Town Medical Centre
25 London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1AR

Sparkle and Smile

- ★ Returning to work
- ★ Looking for a new challenge
- ★ Salary up to £18,500 per annum
- ★ Full holiday entitlement
- ★ Maidstone town centre location
- ★ Bring your personality to work and let it work 4 u
- ★ Telesales based operation

Alzheimer's & Dementia

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registered Charity Number 1024385

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA?

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services is a registered charity which supports people with dementia and their carers

We are looking for **CARERS** to support people in their own homes. You will need to have a genuine interest in people with dementia plus patience and empathy in abundance. Experience of caring for people or NVQ level 2 required. In return we will offer you specialist training, hours to suit you, and the opportunity to work for a friendly caring charity.

Rate of pay will be £8.00 per hour, plus 4 weeks annual leave.

For application forms and further information contact Judith West 01474 533990 or email judith.west@alz-dem.org

Closing date for completed applications 21st Feb, 2011.

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

HV Wooding

Sales Co-ordinator

HV Wooding are a well establish and successful manufacturing company producing metal components to customer specification, owing to growth in the business and to assist in the development of future opportunities we have a vacancy for a Sales Co-ordinator.

We are looking for an experienced Sales Co-ordinator to join our busy sales team, the candidate should have proven experience in the following areas:

- Enquiry Management/Sales Admin
- Marketing
- Account Management
- Team Leading

Reporting to the Sales Director you will be responsible for the general co-ordination of the sales team using effective team leading skills to move the team forward and to enhance performance. You will take a hands on pro-active role in developing the Marketing approach for the company, this is aimed at new business generation.

You will need to be numerate and have good attention to detail with a methodical approach to your work together with excellent communication and organisational skills. Experience working in a manufacturing business with some technical knowledge would be of benefit but not essential as full process/product training will be provided. A good knowledge of 'MS Office' software is also required.

This is a key role within the business and will be of interest to someone with Enquiry Management and Marketing experience looking for a challenging and rewarding role.

Please send your CV to jolson@hvwooding.co.uk

We are seeking a first class

THE KINDERGARTENS

Book-Keeper/Account Administrator

with an enthusiastic and committed approach, to work in our Head Office based in Marden, Kent to start as soon as possible

- A good working knowledge of Sage
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work as part of a team and to play a key role in this growing company
- Self motivated and organised
- At least two years' experience in a similar position

The Kindergartens are a family run group of successful and well established nursery schools situated in Central London

A competitive salary and conditions are offered

For further details and a full description of the post please email: nicky.peckham@thekindergartens.co.uk

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

www.thekindergartens.com

All Seasons donates 100% of the surplus profit to, and works in partnership with, registered charity Kent Enterprise Trust.

all seasons care services

Looking for a new challenge?

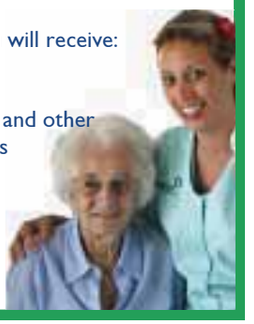
Why not make a difference to someone's life and work with us as a community care worker?

Experience **NOT** required but passion is essential.

Visit www.allseasons.org.uk or call **01227 265 899** for more information.

Working for All Seasons you will receive:

- regular formal support
- good rates of pay
- free national qualifications and other development opportunities
- free CRB
- free uniform
- childcare vouchers.



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Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

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The smart way to find a job in the County

The future of local media

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

Media Sales Executives - Field Based x3
Full Time permanent - Ashford and Weald
Full Time permanent - Tunbridge Wells and West Kent
Full Time permanent - Medway

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.
We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.
Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Telephone Sales Executives x2
Maternity Cover
fixed term 12 months
Full Time permanent

If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply.
You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.
We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.
Media experience is not essential as full training will be given.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

Sales Manager

The Sales Manager will play a lead role in developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of client relationship management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, securing new revenue, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.
The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with excellent sales skills,a self starter; highly motivated and will have excellent verbal and written communication ability. You will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and knowledge of the Kent marketplace would be useful.

Media Sales Executives Tunbridge Wells

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.
We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.
Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Telephone Sales Executives x2 Ashford

You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products.
Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships.
Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured and positive manner. Your might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be an excellent starting point.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Christine Davidson, Commercial Director
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

Teachers Needed

Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✔ Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- ✔ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- ✔ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✔ Free use of resource centre
- ✔ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:
0800 731 6871
or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

CAPITA EDUCATION RESOURCING

(Agy) Committed to equal opportunities

Calling all Teachers & Cover Supervisors

Primary, Secondary and SEN Education

Our professional team can offer:

- Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- Free in-service training and CPD Courses
- An out-of-hours service 24/7

Whether you require daily, short term, long term or permanent roles across Kent and the SE we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us on:
0845 450 1496 or email: kentteam@tltp.co.uk

TLTP Education

JobsforKent.co.uk The smart way to find a job in the County

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

Additional Support Tutor

The college is looking to recruit an Additional Support Tutor to be responsible for the support service for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition and Language and Communication needs.

Salary Scale: **£25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week, all year**

Closing date: **9 February 2011**

Interview date: **28 February 2011**

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.
Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: AST001

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

Jobs for Kent

Census Jobs

Jobs

All over Kent
Salary £7.41 to £15.37 p.h. Census Jobs from £7.41 to £15.37 p.h. (depending on role/location). Full and part time roles available in your area. Be part of an exciting project and apply now at www.censusjobs.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Census applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Royal Naval Benevolent Trust

RGN's (Day and Night shifts)

Gillingham
Salary Negotiable
Prestigious Naval Care Home in Gillingham Requires: RGN's (Day and Night shifts) Applicants should be able to provide a high standard of nursing care and work as part of a team. For more information and application form contact: PEMBROKE HOUSE11 Oxford Road Gillingham Kent ME7 4BS Tel: 01634 852431.
To apply/more information:
Royal Naval Benevolent Trust jotrembeth@ pembrokehouse-rnbt.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

THANET COLLEGE

"Raising Aspirations, Developing Skills, Delivering Quality"

Do you have what it takes to be a College Governor?

Thanet College continues to build on the success and achievement of its students in a wide range of vocational courses, specialising in areas such as art and design, music, media and performance, engineering and technology, hospitality, care and business.

College Governors are members of the wide community served by the College who volunteer their senior level experience and skills for public benefit. They are responsible for the educational character and mission of the College, for the proper use of its resources and for safeguarding its assets. Governors are committed to the value of lifelong learning, the promotion of equal opportunities and maintaining standards.

We have a vacancy for a Governor serving on our Governing Body and Audit Committee. The successful applicant should have broad managerial experience and knowledge of organisations at a senior level and be conversant with financial procedures and/or audit processes.

Please apply in writing to:

Nicky Stevenson
Deputy Clerk
Thanet College
Ramsgate Road
Broadstairs
Kent CT10 1PN

The closing date for applicants is Monday 14th February 2011.

Please note: Previous applicants need not apply

Thanet College is committed to Equal Opportunities.

THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR (Margate)
20 hours per week (shifts between 7.30am – 08.00pm)
Closing date for applications –4th February 2011

Qualifications

Maths and English (GCSE or equivalent) 2 years working with the public
Knowledge of Word, IT Skills, Booking Systems. Flexible approach to working

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Caroline McSkeane, Outpatient Administration Supervisor on 01843 234555 Ext: 62044

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing
QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com
The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

To advertise in this section ✆ 01303 817040

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

Trainer/Assessor in Health & Social Care

A Trainer/Assessor is required to work at the college's brand new Business Centre in Manston.

The successful applicant will be required to:

- Assess and track a caseload of learners for Employer Responsive provision in a variety of environments towards timely completion
- Carry out Internally Verification
- Prepare and deliver group training for customised and accredited programmes
- Contribute to resource development and implement new programmes as necessary under the direction of the Sector Lead
- Promote the Business Centre / Sector, recruiting new candidates primarily from existing employer contacts.

Salary Scale: **£19,000 - £23,000 plus Achievement Incentives up to £3K, 37 hours, all year**

Closing date: **31 January 2010**

Interview date: **8 February 2011**

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.
Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

Westlands Academies Trust

The Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne,
Kent ME10 1PF

SITE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/CARETAKER

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team, line-managed by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties, the successful applicant will be expected to undertake site maintenance, and so a working knowledge and experience with carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating is desirable.

37 hours a week. Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis.

Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours as and when required.

Kent Pay Band 3 £14,099 - £15,984

**Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.
Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.
Closing date: Monday 31st January 2011**

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check..

**Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher:
Mr J Whitcombe MA**

Westlands Academies Trust
Company No 7344732

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE (LICENSING ACT 2003)

Take notice that Sellathurai Mahadevan Birithivirajah has applied to Medway Council under the Licensing Act 2003 for a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as Best One, 4 Admirals Walk, Chatham, ME5 8NL. A brief description of the proposed licence is as follows: The sale of alcohol Monday-Sunday from 0800-2300 hours. Full details of the application are held and can be inspected at the Licensing Authority, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Rd, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR. Interested parties or responsible authorities can make written representations to the Licensing Authority in writing by the 17th February 2011 at the address above. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

Application submitted by:
Licensing Matters Ltd (01282 684537)

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
Notice of application for the variation of a premises licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application has been made to the licensing authority of Maidstone Borough Council for the variation of a premises licence under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003

Details of the application are as follows;
Name of Applicant; Mytime Active
Postal address of premises; Cobtree Golf Course, Chatham Road, Sandling, Maidstone, ME14 3AZ
Brief description of proposed variation to premises licence; To extend Permitted Hours to 00.30hrs for Supply of Alcohol Mon-Sat & remove conditions section under 'Children' from embedded conditions. Entertainment Mon-Sat.

Any responsible authority or interested party wishing to make representations on this matter must submit those representations in writing to; The Licensing Team,

Maidstone Borough Council PO Box 1255 MAIDSTONE ME14 9LT by no later than 28 days from the date of this notice.

ANY REPRESNTATIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THE APPLICANT AND WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY

Please note that it is an offence knowingly or recklessly making a false statement in connection with an application and, on summary conviction for the offence, a person is liable to a fine not exceeding level five on the standard scale (currently £5,000)

Signed; B Thompson Dated; 14/01/11

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995
NOTICE OF THE CONFIRMATION OF A DIRECTION
UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 6 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a Direction made under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to which Article 6 applies ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am and 4pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made by the Authority on 13 December 2010 and came into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the 18 December 2010. The Direction was confirmed on 24 January 2011 and remains in force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

FIRST SCHEDULE
The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 2 - MINOR OPERATIONS
Class A
The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 4 - TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND USES
Class B
The use of the land for any purpose for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year, of which not more than 14 days in total may be for the purposes referred to in paragraph B.2, and the provision on the land of any movable structure for the purpose of the permitted use.

SECOND SCHEDULE
A parcel of land having an area of some 6.372722 hectares to the south east of Chieveley Drive, Hawkenbury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS
Dated: 29 January 2011

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

PUBLIC NOTICE

Highways – District of Swale

NEWHOUSE LANE, SHELDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of works to install a new district water meter and associated pipe work, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Newhouse Lane, Sheldwich, on or after 1 February 2011 for up to 8 weekdays or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A251 Faversham Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with A251 Faversham Road and Owens Court Road.

The alternative route is via A251 Faversham Road, Ashford Road, A2 Canterbury Road, Selling Road and Featherbed Lane.

SEED ROAD, NEWNHAM & HOPES HILL, DODDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of water mains replacement works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seed Road, Newnham and Hopes Hill, Doddington, on or after 14 February 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

SEED ROAD will be closed between the junctions with Hopes Hill and Foxen Road from 14 February 2011 for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route is via Hopes Hill, The Street, Doddington Lane and The Street.

HOPES HILL will be closed for its entire length from 14 March 2011 for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route is via The Street, Doddington Lane, The Street and Seed Road.

STATION ROW LEVEL CROSSING, TEYNHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of a level crossing inspection and track maintenance, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Row Level Crossing, Teynham, on or after 31 January 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

Station Row will be closed at the Level Crossing. There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

The planned closure times are from midnight on 31 January 2010 until 5.00 am on 2 February 2011.

STONE LEVEL CROSSING, BUCKLAND (SWALE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of level crossing maintenance, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stone Level Crossing, Buckland (Swale), on or after 4 February 2011 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

Lower Road, Buckland will be closed at Stone Level Crossing. There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Buckland Farm Road and Elverton Lane.

The alternative route is via Lower Road, Lower Norton Lane, A2 London Road, Four Oaks Road and Lower Road.

It is planned these works will be carried out from 0.05 am until 6.00 am, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

This Order remains in force for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required, for works of a similar nature.

TANNERS STREET, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tanners Street, Faversham, on or after 2 February 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 53. There will be no access for ***northbound*** through traffic from the junction with Napleton Road to the junction with West Street.

The alternative route is via South Road, Lower Road, Beech Close, Stonebridge Way and West Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Tanners Street will be suspended between the junctions with Napleton Road and West Street to allow access up to the point of closure.

TONGE ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of gas mains replacement works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tonge Road, Sittingbourne, on or after 14 February 2011 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of All Saints Road for a distance of approximately 26 metres eastwards.

The alternative route is via Tonge Road, Murston Road, A2 Canterbury Road, Fox Hill, The Street, Hempstead Lane, Lower Road and Lomas Road.

**For further information please contact
Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

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Highways – Borough of Ashford

(VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD) (20 MPH SPEED LIMIT ZONE) ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF LEFT HAND TURNS) ORDER 2011 (TOUCAN CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (VICTORIA ROAD, VICTORIA CRESCENT & UN-NAMED ACCESS ROADS, ASHFORD) (PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES) THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that The Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to introduce a Restricted Parking and 20mph speed limit zone on a small section of Victoria Road from a point 30.0 metres north west of the mid point of the shared cycle / pedestrian footpath known as "Learning Link", south eastwards to a point 10.0 metres south east of the mid point of its junction with Victoria Crescent. The remaining lengths of Victoria Road, Leacon Road and Gasworks Lane will be subject to "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions; along with two small sections of Bowens Field which will prevent parking in areas where access and visibility are limited.

It is also proposed under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, that turning left from Victoria Crescent into Victoria Road, Ashford will be prohibited. This is a safety measure to prevent larger vehicles that often visit the industrial area in Victoria Crescent, from exiting onto the opposing carriageway of Victoria Road.

And under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers, intends to install a Toucan Crossing on Victoria Road, Ashford at its junction with the shared cycle / pedestrian footpath known as "Learning Link", introduce a Pedestrian Crossing on Brookfield Road north west of Leacon Road junction and convert a Pedestrian Crossing to a Toucan Crossing south east of Leacon Road junction.

And under Section 90A to Section 90"I" of the Highways Act 1980 as amended by Section 32 and Schedule 10 of the Transport Act 1991 and by paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 and all other enabling powers, proposes to provide the traffic calming measures as described in Schedule 1 hereto:-

A copy of the proposed Orders, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Ashford Borough Council Offices, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL

Anyone wishing to support, or object to this proposal should write to Mrs Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B0501400" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 14th February 2011.

Schedule 1

Flat Top Raised Ramp.

Raised flat top road ramp 50mm in height over full width of carriageway)

All Un-named Access Roads	at their junctions with Victoria Road.
Victoria Crescent, Ashford	at its junction with Victoria Road
Victoria Road, Ashford	30.0 metres northwest of the mid point of the shared cycle/ pedestrian footpath known as "Learning Link".
Victoria Road, Ashford	10.0 metres south east of the mid point of its junction with Victoria Crescent.

Highways – District of Sevenoaks

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 (ZEBRA CROSSING – A225 HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS)

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

A225 HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS
178 metres south west of the junction with Mill Lane.

VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION OF STOPPING OUT SIDE SCHOOLS) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 47, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

This Order is necessary for safety reasons, and will make stopping on the "School Keep Clear" zig-zag markings on the following lengths or road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.30am to 9.30am and from 3.00pm to 4.00pm during school term times an infringement which may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

The locations are-

A255 High Street, Eynsford, Sevenoaks on the north western side from a point in line with the south western boundary of property Ashprington for a distance of 28 metres in a south westerly direction and between points 86 metres and 118 metres south west of a point in line with property Ashprington.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sevenoaks District Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent Highway Services, St Lawrence House, 48A West Hill, Dartford and Sessions House County Hall, Maidstone, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, , St Lawrence House, 48A West Hill, Dartford DA1 2EU by noon on Monday 21 February 2011.

HIGH STREET, EDENBRIDGE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, Edenbridge outside number 88.

The Order will become effective on 14th February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Mont St Aignan Way and High Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate sewer works.

CHURCH ROAD, HARTLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Church Road, Hartley between Grange Road and Hartley Hill.

The Order will become effective on 31st January 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 14 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Ash Road and St Johns Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate new gullies, manhole, and connection to soak away and confined space clean of existing soak away.

BUTTON STREET, SWANLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Button Street, Swanley between its junctions with A20 Gorse Hill (Main Road) and Faminham Hill Road.

The Order will become effective on 31st January 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 7 non-consecutive days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A20 London Road, B2173 London Road, B2173 High Street, B258 Swanley Lane, Highlands Hill, Swanley Village Road and Button Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of bridge bearings.

Highways – Borough of Tonbridge and Malling

(PRIORY ROAD, TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Priory Road at the railway bridge on or after Sunday 6th February 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Priory Road, B2260 Railway Approach, A26 Pembury Road, Goldsmid Road, Priory Road.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to provide a safety and structural examination of the railway bridge. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Emma Osborne of Centurion Traffic Management on 01634 717044.

(BACK LANE & COMMON ROAD, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Back Lane and Common Road on or after Monday 14th February 2011 for a period of up to 14 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via A25 Sevenoaks Road, Sevenoaks Road, A227 Tonbridge Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lay a new main. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Terry Kennedy on 01634 873095.

Highways – District of Shepway

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING, PROHIBITION OF LOADING AND UNLOADING) (AMENDMENT NO. 2) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1, 2 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of Stone Street, Westernhanger:

On the eastern side from a point 45 metres south of the junction with the access road to Westernhanger Station for a distance of 267 metres in a northerly direction;

On the western side from a point 25 metres south of the access road to Westernhanger Station for a distance of 230 metres in a northerly direction;

On both sides of the access road to Westernhanger Station from the junction with Stone Street for a distance of 5 metres in a westerly direction;

On both sides of the access road to property known as The Willows from the junction with Stone Street for a distance of 7 metres in an easterly direction.

The Order was sealed on 24 January 2011 and will come into force 31 January 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm. and Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

(A25 SEAL ROAD, SEVENOAKS AND HIGH STREET, SEAL) (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Orders under section 82(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the Order reduces the length of 40 mph speed limit in A25 Seal Road, Sevenoaks and High Street, Seal to the following lengths of road (extending the 30 mph speed limit):

from a point 7 metres east of the eastern boundary of property number 192a Seal Road, Sevenoaks to a point 5 metres east of the junction of High Street, Seal and Seal Drive.

The Order was sealed on 24 January 2011 and will come into force 31 January 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm. and Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Newlands, Newlands Road, Charing**

Applicant: **Gail Greig**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lovetts Property services are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £121,500 for
22/22a Vale Road
Ramsgate
Kent CT11 9LT

Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Lovetts Property Services, 78-78a High Street Ramsgate Kent CT11 9RX before exchange of contracts

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008
REGULATION 4 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER AT KENTISH FLATS OFFSHORE WIND FARM, NEAR WHITSTABLE AND HERNE BAY, KENT
NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER ("DCO")

Notice is hereby given that Vattenfall Wind Power Limited (the "Applicant") of 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB proposes to apply to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (the "Commission") under section 37 of The Planning Act 2008 for the above-mentioned development consent order (the "Application").

The Application relates to the construction and operation of an extension to the existing 90 megawatt (MW) Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm, near Whitstable and Herne Bay in Kent (the "Project").

The proposed DCO will, amongst other things, authorise:

- Construction and operation of up to 17 additional turbines to the south and west of the existing Kentish Flats turbine array. The extension would provide up to 51megwatts (MW) of additional capacity and cover a maximum area of 8 km^2 in water depths of approximately 5 metres. The turbines would have an expected rated capacity of around 3MW with a maximum tip height of around 145 metres. The turbines would be connected by subsea inter-array cables at a depth of around 0.5 to 1m and the foundations are likely to be steel monopiles driven about 30-40 metres into the seabed.
- Associated development comprising the installation of one or more export cables from the wind farm to the shore in the vicinity of Hampton Pier from where it is likely to follow the existing onshore cable route to the Red House Farm electricity substation. This route would take the cable along Hampton Pier Avenue turning west along Whitstable Road for approximately 150m before joining Westbrook Lane. The cabling would run along Westbrook Lane under the railway line before reaching the old Thanet Way. It would then join Thornden Close before running along Thornden Wood Road for approximately 200m to the Red House Farm electricity substation. The route is approximately 2km in length.
- Licences to authorise the installation of the turbines and cables on the seabed.
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development. Accordingly, the Applicant will be making preliminary environmental information available. A copy of the Preliminary Environmental Report with Non-Technical Summary, which includes details of the proposals, will be available from 31 January 2011 from the following sources:

www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm

Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB – There will be a charge of £5 for posted reports which will be provided as printed copies or on CD.

The documents may also be viewed at:

Council offices

Canterbury City Council Military Road Canterbury Kent, CT1 1YW	Canterbury City Council 45 William Street Herne Bay Kent, CT6 5NR	Canterbury City Council Harbour Office Whitstable Harbour Kent, CT5 1AB

Opening hours for these offices are Monday – Friday 8:30am to 5pm.

The documents will be available until 4 March 2011. You can write to us with your comments to Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB or email mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com. The deadline for written responses to our pre-application consultation is 4 March 2011.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995
NOTICE OF THE CONFIRMATION OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 5 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a Direction made under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am and 4pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made on 13 December 2010 and was confirmed and came into force on 24 January 2011.

FIRST SCHEDULE
The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995
SCHEDULE 2 PART 5 – CARAVAN SITES
Class A
The use of the land, other than a building, as a caravan site in the circumstances referred to in paragraph A.2.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 6 – AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS
Class A – Development on units of 5 hectares or more
(a) Works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building; or
(b) any excavation or engineering operations which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within that unit.

Class B – Development on units of less than 5 hectares
(a) the extension or alteration of an agricultural building;
(b) the installation of additional or replacement plant or machinery;
(c) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a sewer, main, pipe, cable or other apparatus;
(d) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a private way;
(e) the provision of a hard surface;
(f) the deposit of waste; or
(g) the carrying out of any of the following operations in connection with fish farming, namely, repairing ponds and raceways; the installation of grading machinery, seration equipment or flow meters and any associated channel; the dredging of ponds; and the replacement of tanks and nets, where the development is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within the unit.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 7 – FORESTRY BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS
Class A
The carrying out on land used for the purposes of forestry, including afforestation, of development reasonably necessary for those purposes consisting of :-
(a) works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building:
(b) the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways;
(c) operations on that land, or on land held or occupied with that land, to obtain the materials required for the formation, alteration or maintenance of such ways;
(d) other operations (not including engineering or mining operations).

SECOND SCHEDULE
A parcel of land having an area of some 6.372722 hectares to the south east of Chieveley Drive, Hawkenbury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.
Dated: 29 January 2011

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

More upmarket focus with the latest Focus

By **STEVE LOADER**

FORD launches its third generation Focus in March with clear intent to take the UK's best-selling family hatchback upmarket.

And there could be no better way to celebrate the firm's 100 years in Britain, than production of what is tipped to be the sharpest Focus since the original mould-breaker arrived in 1998.

That car arrived as a replacement for the long-running and increasingly tired Escort; indeed, I have written before about the complacency and market over-dominance shown by Ford in wringing out year after year of warmed over technology and design in those latter day Escort models.

But even Ford recognised it had to do something eventually and, having buried the credibility of the once proud Escort name under years of mediocrity, it came up with an apt name for its successor; the Focus showed real concentration on ground-breaking looks, interior design and driver appeal.

Unfortunately, there was a relapse when the Mark II version came out in 2004. It was a fine car in terms of build and driveability, but the styling was a let down after the radical approach of its predecessor.

Fortunately, the all-new car arriving soon marks a return to the bravery of the Mark I and if the five-door and estate models available at launch are anything to go by, we need to start getting excited now about what the three-door 'sporting version' will look like when that arrives later.

The crisply-styled Mark III (from £15,995) will also cut a dash against its arch-rivals, the Vauxhall Astra and VW Golf: the former is another stylish contender, while the latter is a stunning piece of technology with big car levels of refinement, but it's pretty average to look at.

Nor will the new Focus concede ground technologically; it has been developed in Europe for global sales – major recognition that British and European consumers have the most sophisticated motoring demands.

The car's platform will eventually underpin at least 10 vehicles around the world and account for two million units of annual production by 2012.

The powertrain options at launch for the UK also reflect a demanding market; the fight back by petrol is highlighted by Ford's sophisticated new turbocharged low emission 1.6-litre EcoBoost unit and completely updated 1.6 and 2.0-litre Duratorq TDCi diesels

Both 1.6 engines will also have Auto-Start-Stop as standard to cut consumption and emissions in heavy traffic conditions – Focus CO2 emissions start at 109g/km.

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was £15,590
now £11,795
save £3795

Exeo
ST 2.0 TDI SE CRDI 5-Door Estate 2010
was £22,265
now £16,995
save £5270
from £16,995
on the road

For illustration purposes only

Auto Amor Ltd

PRE-LOVED SEATS FROM AS LITTLE AS....

SEAT

10 60 SEAT Exeo ST 2.0 TDi SE Tech 5-door Estate in Black Magic. 3,500 miles. Was: £23,160 **Now: £18,995** Save £4,165!

10 10 SEAT Exeo ST 2.0 TDi SE CRDi 5-door Estate in Silver. 4,500 miles. Was: £22,265 **Now: £16,995** Save £5,270!

10 60 SEAT Leon 1.6 TDi CR Emocion 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 1,500 miles. Was: £18,020 **Now: £14,895** Save £3,125!

10 10 SEAT Altea 1.6 SE TDi CR Ecomotive 5-door MPV in Planeta Blue. 9,500 miles. Was: £18,980 **Now: £13,695** Save £5,285!

10 60 SEAT Altea 1.9 TDi S 5-door Hatchback in Track Grey. 3,000 miles. Was: £16,190 **Now: £12,995** Save £3,195!

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10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S 5-door Hatchback in Nayara Blue. 4,500 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £12,295** Save £3,295!

10 10 SEAT Ibiza 1.6 TDi CR Sport 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 5,500 miles. Was: £15,000 **Now: £11,995** Save £3,005!

10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S 90PS 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 5,000 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £11,795** Save £3,795!

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10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 3,000 miles. Was: £13,495 **Now: £10,995** Save £2,500!

10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff 5-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 3,500 miles. Was: £13,095 **Now: £10,695** Save £2,400!

07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 FR TSi 200PS 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic Metallic. 34,500 miles. Was: £10,995 **Now: £10,495** Save £500!

10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 2,000 miles. Was: £12,650 **Now: £10,395** Save £2,255!

07 57 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey Metallic. 29,000 miles. Was: £9,995 **Now: £9,495** Save £500!

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08 58 SEAT Leon 1.6 Emocion 5-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 10,000 miles. Was: £9,795 **Now: £9,295** Save £500!

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07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic Metallic. 37,500 miles. Was: £9,295 **Now: £8,995** Save £300!

08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16V SE 85PS 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 17,500 miles. £8,295

07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi PD Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey Metallic 54,561 miles. £7,995

08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-door Hatchback in Black. 19,000 miles. £7,995

08 08 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sportrider 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey, 17,000 miles. £6,895

07 56 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Stylance 3-door Hatchback in Luna Grey, Automatic 17,000 miles. £5,795

04 54 SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDi S 110 BHP 4-door Saloon in Lava Grey Metallic. 75,000 miles. **SOLD**

Other makes

05 05 BMW Z4 3.0i SE 2-door Roadster/Convertible Tiptronic in Maldives Blue. 13,500 miles. £16,750

06 06 Saab 95 Vector Sport TiD 4-door Saloon Automatic in Steel Grey. 22,000 miles. **SOLD**

07 07 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CTDi Exclusive 5-door Hatchback Automatic/Tiptronic in Silver. 31,000 miles. Was: £8,295 **Now: £7,795** Save £500!

08 57 Skoda Octavia 1.6 FSi Classic 5-door Hatchback in Gold Metallic. 23,600 miles. Was: £7,995 **Now: £7,295** Save £700!

07 07 Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique 5-door Hatchback in Mercury Metallic. 24,500 miles. Was: £7,295 **Now: £6,995** Save £300!

07 07 Skoda Roomster 2 1.4 5-door Hatchback in Deep Sea Blue. 23,000 miles. Was: £7,695 **Now: £6,995** Save £700!

08 08 Renault Twingo 1.2 GT 3-door Hatchback in Black. 12,000 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,395** Save £600!

07 07 Renault Modus 1.4 16V Dynamique 5-door Hatchback in Antique Green. 10,800 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,295** Save £700!

07 07 Vauxhall Agila 1.2 Design 5-door MPV in Star Silver. 9,800 miles Was: £6,495 **Now: £5,995** Save £500!

07 57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate 5-door Hatchback Automatic in Tonic Blue. 17,500 miles. £5,995

07 57 Renault Scenic 1.6 Dynamique 5-door Hatchback Automatic in Pearl Black. 35,800 miles. £5,995

08 57 Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-door Hatchback in Ocean Blue. 26,500 miles. £5,495

07 07 Proton Gen-2 1.6 GL5 5-door Hatchback in Passion Blue. 28,000 miles. Was: £4,695 **Now: £4,295** Save £400!

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09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR (2008 - 2010) 18890 MILES	£11999	£9999	£2000
09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [110] [DPF] (2008 -) 18164 MILES	£11999	£10499	£1500
08 FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 3DR 0 MILES	£13999	£13299	£700
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59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE V (-) 12314 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
10 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR	£11999	£10499	£1500
56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
57 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK EDGE (2009) 5 DR 1.4 68PS TDCI (-) 14130 MILES	£11999	£10499	£1500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ZETEC S (2010.5) 3 DR 1.6TDCI 90PS STAGE V (-) 16315 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ECONETIC (2009) 5 DR 1.6 TDCI 90 + DPF (-) 15188 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
57 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] (2005 - 2008) 9655 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
58 FORD KA 1.2 STYLE+ 3DR	£7499	£6999	£500
09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.2 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR (2008 - 2010) 27091 MILES	£13999	£12999	£1000
09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR (2007 - 2010) 23205MILES	£13999	£12999	£1000
59 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [140] AUTO (2008 - 2010) 25236 MILES	£13499	£12799	£700
57 FORD MONDEO PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE [] 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC 125PS (-) 14438 MILES	£8499	£7999	£1000
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + (2007.25) 5-DR 1.6 100PS (-) 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK ZETEC (2006) 5-DR AUTO 1.6 100PS (-) 10750 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR 0 MILES	£11999	£9999	£2000
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
05 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 5DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
56 VOLVO V50 2.0D SPORT 5DR [EURO 4]	£9999	£8999	£1000
53 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8I LS 5DR	£4499	£3499	£1000
07 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE 4DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
56 CITROEN C1 1.0I RHYTHM 3DR	£5999	£5199	£800
06 KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.1 LX 5DR AUTO (2004 - 2006) 6218 MILES	£4499	£3999	£500
57 DAIHATSU SIRION 1.0 SE 5DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
10 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR (2008 - 2010) 21556 MILES	£21999	£20999	£1000
03 MG ZR 1.8 120 + 3DR STEP AUTO	£2999	£2699	£300
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + (2007.25) 5-DR 1.6 100PS (-) 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
02 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [110] [EURO 4] [CLIMATE PACK]	£5999	£4999	£1000
08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR	£11999	£9999	£2000
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500

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08 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, Leather Interior, 22,870 miles. £12,795

05 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interiorGrey Metallic, 10,700 miles. £8,995 interior

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, 22,500 miles. £6,995

06 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 FSI Sport 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Diamond Silver Metallic, 27,500 miles. £6,995

58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

57 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Classic 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £5,995

53 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 Comfort 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 49,488 miles. £3,495

06 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Bohemia (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Flamenco Red Metallic, 44,210 miles. £4,995

Other Makes

59 Plate. SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback
Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,300 miles. £11,995

58 Plate. Fiat 500 1.3 MultiJet Sport 3-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Pasodoble Red with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 27,100 miles. £9,795

51 Plate. BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci 2-Dr Convertible
Finished in Titanium Silver Metallic with a Grey Leather interior, 44,300 miles. £8,995

55 Plate. Peugeot 407 SW 2.0 HDi 136 SE (Luxury)
Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 44,500 miles. £7,995

04 Plate. Honda Civic 2.0 Type S 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Nighthawk Black, 48,500 miles. £5,795

56 Plate. Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSI SE 5-Door Hatchback
Finished in Ice Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,135 miles. £5,795

08 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Door Hatchback
Finished in Metallic Machine Silver, 12,500 miles. £4,995

06 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback
Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. £3,995

*Correct at time of going to press.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Corsa's blue halo

AFTER a major revamp of its Corsa supermini, Vauxhall has also created a new limited edition halo model for the line-up.

The £19,245 Corsa VXR Blue Edition undercuts key competitors like the Citroen DS3 R and the Mini Cooper Works by up to £3,600, yet comes with an arresting blue metallic paint job, 18-inch alloys and dark-tinted glass.

It also gets the more aggressive VXR front end, with deep-set fog lamps.

The blue theme continues inside on stitching to the leather-clad wheel, the interior air-vent colour and on the Recaro seats.

The VXR is powered by a lightweight turbocharged petrol 190bhp 1.6-litre engine delivering 0-60mph in 6.8 seconds.

The car also sits on lowered sports suspension, uprated brakes and a switchable Electronic Stability Programme (ESP) for extra driving entertainment.

Go for luxury with high-spec city car

UNDERLINING a regular First Gear theme that drivers may be downsizing but not giving up their luxuries, Toyota has launched a high-spec version of its Aygo city car.

The Aygo Go! (from £9,750) comes with a removable touchscreen TomTom sat nav, Bluetooth connectivity and a USB port for connecting iPods and other digital music players to the CD/MP3 sound system.

The Go! also hits high notes visually with bespoke alloys, rear privacy glass and a leather-trimmed steering wheel, but air con adds a grand to the price.

It is available in three and five-door body styles and offered with a manual or efficient manual/auto MultiMode transmission for the 1.0-litre petrol engine.

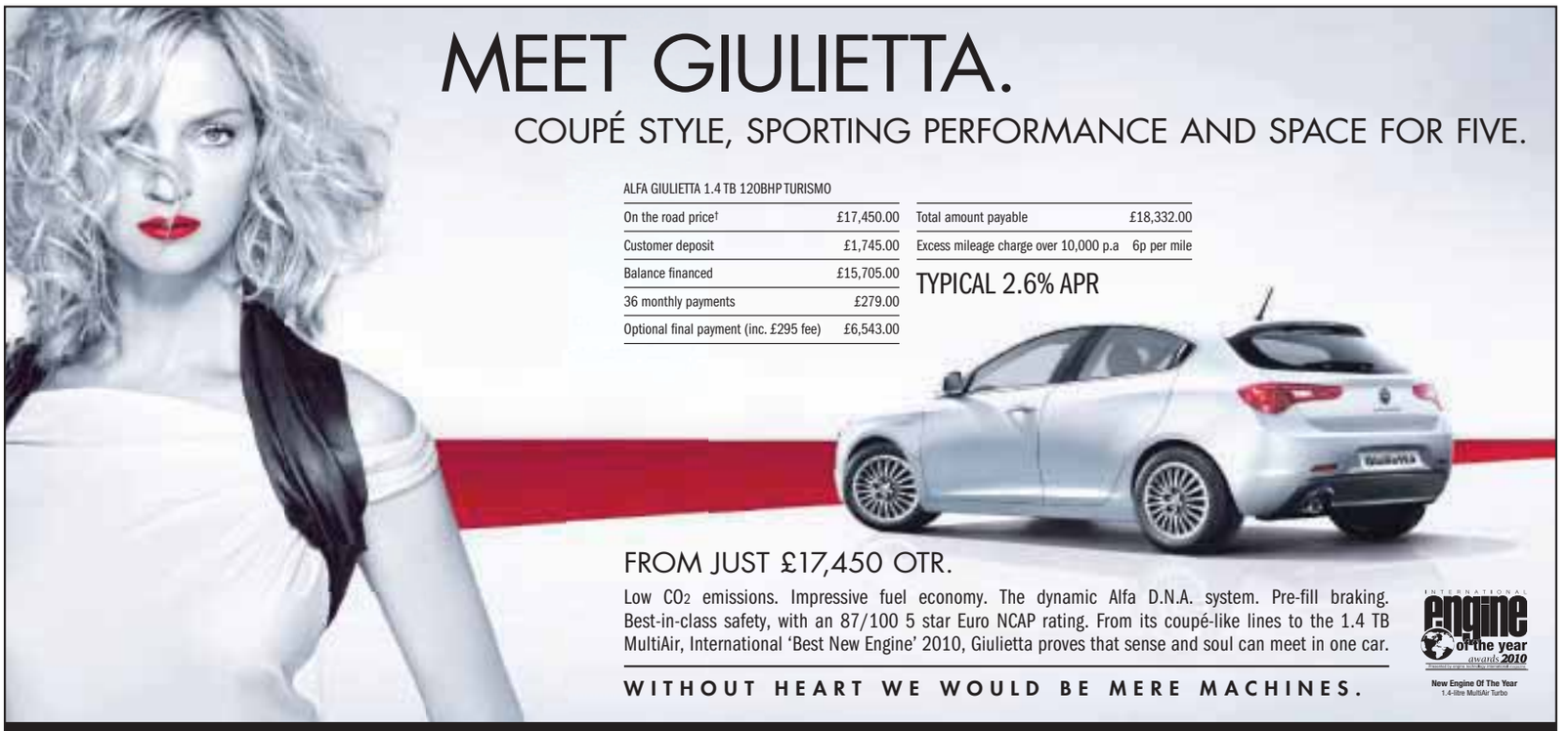
Series of seven wins for BMW

BMW scooped seven gongs from the prestigious BusinessCar fleet contest, including the coveted headline accolade of 'Manufacturer of the Year' for the third year running.

The title 'Business Car of the Year' was awarded to the new BMW 5-Series for a combination of superior build quality, driving dynamics and class-leading economy, while 'Green Car of the Year' was landed by the ultra frugal BMW 320d EfficientDynamics.

Other awards included: 'Large 4x4 of the year' (BMW X5), 'Upper Medium Car of the Year' (BMW 3-Series for the second year), 'Executive Car of the Year' (BMW 5-Series), and 'Supermini of the Year' (BMW Mini for the ninth year).

The BusinessCar Awards are highly sought after by carmakers as the votes are cast by readers. Editor Paul Barker said of the German marque's dominant performance: "BMW's massive achievement in providing cars that are both cost-efficient to run and desirable to staff has led to a well deserved and very impressive seven awards, including all three of the headline car awards."



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Giulietta

Model shown: Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120bhp Turismo at £17,940 OTR including optional Ghiaccio White special paint at £490.00. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 26.2 – 51.4 mpg (10.8 – 5.5 l/100km); Extra Urban 48.7 – 76.4 mpg (5.8 – 3.7 l/100km); Combined 37.2 – 64.2 mpg (7.6 – 4.4 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 177 – 114 g/km. Prices correct at time of going to press.

†On the road price includes 3 year Alfacare Dealer warranty, 3 year AA cover, 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures are correct at time of print. Offer subject to availability, vehicles must be registered by 31st March 2011. Finance subject to status. Guarantees / indemnities may be required. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO Box 108, Leeds, LS27 0WU.

45629

E-Type still stunning at 50

by STEVELOADER

JAGUAR is celebrating the 50th anniversary of one of the most famous and desirable cars in motoring history – the Jaguar E-Type.

The special birthday will be marked at headline industry events including the Geneva Motor Show where it was unveiled in 1961, Goodwood's Revival and Festival of Speed, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, and the Nurburgring Old Timer Grand Prix, as well as Jaguar customer, dealer and lifestyle events worldwide.

The appeal of the E-Type transcended the automotive world; it was even described as a work of art – no wonder that one example of the classic now resides in New York's Museum of Modern Art.

It set new standards in automotive design and performance when it was launched and its influence is still apparent in the line-up of cars sold today by a resurgent Jaguar brand.

"Half a century of progress has not diminished the significance of the E-Type," said Jaguar MD Mike O'Driscoll.

"It was a sensation when it was launched, and remains Jaguar's most enduring and iconic symbol. The E-Type is one of the most exciting cars ever created and a legacy to the genius of Jaguar's founder, Sir William Lyons."

E-Type owners included celebrities such as George Best, Brigitte Bardot, Tony Curtis and Steve McQueen and the sports car became synonymous with the Swinging Sixties as the Beatles and the mini skirt.

"It is impossible to overstate the impact the E-Type had when it was unveiled in 1961," said Jaguar's modern day design chief Ian Callum – the man credited with re-forging the classic brand's styling with best sellers like the XF.

"Here was a car that encapsulated the spirit of the revolutionary era it came to symbolise. The E-Type is a design that even today continues to inform the work we do in styling Jaguars of the future."

The car caused a sensation when the wraps came off in Geneva in 1961; capable of achieving 150mph, but costing a fraction of the price of rivals with similar performance, it was the affordable supercar and remained on sale for 14 years to become Europe's first mass-produced sports car.

Even Enzo Ferrari admitted it was "the most beautiful car in the world".

The E-type's straight-six engine had powered Jaguar to five Le Mans victories in the 1950s. At launch the car cost £2,256 - including tax and the all-important optional wire wheels - the equivalent today of just £38,000.

The E-Type's perfectly proportioned bodywork was the work of Malcolm Sayer, an aeronautical engineer by training who also applied his aerodynamic expertise in shaping the earlier Le Mans-winning C and D-Type racers.

X-TRAIL TEKNA 2.0 dCi 173

6-speed manual 5-door SUV

Cash Price £27,495

Monthly Business Payments

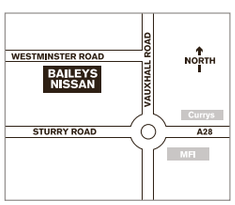
£349.00 +VAT per month*

WITH NISSAN BUSINESS FINANCE CONTRACT HIRE

BUSINESS USERS ONLY

TRANSMISSION	MANUAL
ENGINE POWER	173 PS
ACCELERATION	10.0 sec
FUEL CONSUMPTION	44.1 MPG
CO_2 EMISSIONS	168 G/KM
VED BAND	H
WHEEL SIZE	18"
NUMBER OF SEATS	5

More luxury, more SUV style. The X-Trail Tekna grade has all the X-Trail Acenta features plus new leather seats, Nissan Connect Premium HDD Sat Nav, music server and full USB iPod connection, a rear parking camera and 18" alloys. Plus Xenon headlamps, i-key, powered and heated front seats, and a powered panoramic sunroof add to the luxury on board.



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NISSAN

SHIFT_the way you move

X-TRAIL Range: CO_2 168-188g/km – URBAN 36.2-31.0mpg/7.8-9.1L/100km – EXTRA URBAN 51.4-47.9mpg/5.5-5.9L/100km – COMBINED 44.1-39.8mpg/6.4-7.1L/100km.

*BUSINESS USERS ONLY. All prices exclude VAT. Prices valid subject to no change in manufacturer prices,residual values or interest rates. Contract Hire is available subject to status and conditions on eligible vehicles ordered before the 3rd January 2011. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Example based on 3+35 profile, 10,000 miles per annum on a non-maintained contract. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition. Excess mileage will be charged at 6 pence per mile (excluding VAT). Contract Hire Finance provided by Arval UK Limited, Windmill Hill, Swindon, SN5 6PE.

PRICES HELD NO VAT INCREASES

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- 2010(59) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles £14,995
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR NEW MODEL HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £13,995
- 2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles £13,995
- 2010(10) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £12,995
- 2010(10) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1000 miles £11,995
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £11,495
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £10,995
- 2009(09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
- 2010(60) CITROEN NEMO 1.4 HDI TURBO MPV AUTO, RED, 100 miles £9,995
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 4000 miles £9,995
- 2010(10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, CITRONGH BLUE, 1000 miles £9,995
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles £9,995
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £9,995
- 2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,495
- 2009(09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
- 2009(09) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles £8,995
- 2010(10) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 500 miles £7,995
- 2010(10) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £7,495

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS

- 2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £26,995
- 2009(09) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles £9,995
- 2009(58) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £9,995
- 2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
- 2009(58) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £7,995
- 2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
- 2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles £6,995
- 2006(06) NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £6,995

FIESTA

- 2007(57) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £6,995
- 2007(57) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAUVE/PURPLE/VIOLET, 3000 miles £5,495
- 2003(53) FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 1800 miles, yes really under 200 miles from new £3,995

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

- 2009(09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
- 2008(58) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £9,995
- 2008(08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £9,995
- 2008(57) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £6,995
- 2007(57) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,995
- 2005(55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles £5,495
- 2003(03) FORD FOCUS GHIA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 44000 miles £3,995

FOCUS ESTATES

- 2006(56) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £7,495

RENAULT SCENIC

- 2010(60) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles £14,995
- 2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE DCI 130 FAP 5STR TD MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles £9,995
- 2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £9,995
- 2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £9,995
- 2008(57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles £7,995
- 2008(57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £6,995
- 2006(56) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £6,495
- 2006(56) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT MPV AUTO, GOLD, 29000 miles £5,995
- 2004(54) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 27000 miles £5,495

RENAULT

- 2010(10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, CITRONGH BLUE, 1000 miles £9,995
- 2009(09) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles £9,995
- 2008(58) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £9,995
- 2008(08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles £8,995
- 2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995
- 2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £7,995
- 2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles £7,995
- 2008(58) RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 730 miles £6,995
- 2005(05) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles £6,995
- 2006(56) RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £6,995
- 2007(57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £5,995
- 2007(07) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £5,995
- 2005(05) RENAULT MODUS PRIVILEGE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 30000 miles £4,995
- 2007(56) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £4,995

CHEVROLET

- 2008(08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £6,995
- 2008(58) CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 500 miles £6,995
- 2009(09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £5,995
- 2008(58) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £6,995
- 2008(08) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £5,995
- 2008(08) CHEVROLET KALOS SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £5,995
- 2008(57) CHEVROLET KALOS SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles £5,495
- 2007(07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £4,995
- 2006(56) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles £4,995
- 2007(07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles £4,995
- 2007(07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles £4,995
- 2008(58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE PLUS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 3000 miles £4,995

HYUNDAI

- 2008(08) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £9,995
- 2007(56) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, RED, 4000 miles £8,995
- 2008(58) HYUNDAI MATRIX COMFORT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £7,495
- 2009(09) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles £6,995
- 2008(58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £5,995
- 2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £5,995
- 2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £5,995
- 2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles £5,995
- 2007(57) HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £5,995
- 2006(56) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £5,995
- 2007(07) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £5,495
- 2007(07) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles £5,495

KIA

- 2008(58) KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £5,995
- 2007(57) KIA RIO ICE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £5,495

DAIHATSU

- 2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £7,995
- 2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
- 2007(57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,495
- 2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £6,995
- 2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £5,995

FIAT

- 2008(08) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £5,995
- 2007(56) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 25000 miles £4,995

FUSION

- 2008(08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £7,995
- 2008(08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 3000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £5,995

CITROEN

- 2010(60) CITROEN NEMO 1.4 HDI TURBO MPV AUTO, RED, 100 miles £9,995
- 2008(58) CITROEN C4 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 miles £8,995
- 2007(57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles £5,995
- 2002(02) CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 54000 miles £2,995

MONDEO

- 2006(56) FORD MONDEO LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 26000 miles £6,995

CORSA

- 2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £11,495
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,995
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £9,995
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles £8,495
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £8,995
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
- 2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £5,995
- 2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £5,495
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 2000 miles £5,495
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £5,495
- 2007(07) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles £7,995
- 2006(57) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 9000 miles £5,995

MAZDA

- 2008(58) MAZDA 2 2 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £8,995
- 2007(57) MAZDA 3 1.6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £8,995
- 2006(56) MAZDA 5 1.6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles £7,995
- 2006(56) MAZDA 5 1.6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 18000 miles £7,995
- 2007(57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles £5,495
- 2007(56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995

SUZUKI

- 2009(09) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 16V ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 13000 miles £12,995
- 2009(09) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 400 miles £9,495
- 2008(58) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £5,995

TOYOTA

- 2007(57) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £13,995
- 2007(07) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 16000 miles £13,995
- 2007(07) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, GREY, 16000 miles £13,995
- 2007(07) TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, RED, 25000 miles £9,995
- 2007(57) TOYOTA AVENSIS T3X VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 miles £9,995
- 2007(07) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £8,995
- 2007(07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
- 2008(08) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
- 2007(56) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, EXON BLUE, 13000 miles £7,995
- 2006(55) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles £7,495
- 2005(05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles £7,495
- 2004(54) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,995
- 2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 3000 miles £6,995
- 2008(08) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1750 miles £6,995
- 2007(07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles £6,995
- 2004(04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 6000 miles £6,295
- 2007(57) TOYOTA AYGO VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £5,995
- 2007(57) TOYOTA AYGO VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £5,495
- 2006(06) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 26000 miles £3,495

NISSAN

- 2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 4WD SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £19,995
- 2009(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £14,695
- 2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £13,995
- 2010(10) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1000 miles £11,995
- 2007(57) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles £11,995
- 2008(09) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BRONZE/BUFF, 3000 miles £9,695
- 2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £8,995
- 2008(08) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles £8,995
- 2008(08) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles £8,495
- 2008(08) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,495
- 2010(10) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 500 miles £7,995
- 2008(58) NISSAN MICRA 25 ANNIVERSARY 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £7,995
- 2008(08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, RED, 14000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
- 2006(06) NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £6,995
- 2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £5,995
- 2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 10000 miles £5,995
- 2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles £5,995
- 2006(06) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £5,995
- 2006(04) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ARUBA BLUE, 12000 miles £3,995
- 2006(04) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £3,495
- 2002(02) NISSAN MICRA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 19000 miles £2,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

- 2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR NEW MODEL HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £13,995
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles £9,995
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles £7,995
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles £6,995
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 13000 miles £6,995
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £6,995
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BRONZE/BUFF, 14000 miles £6,495
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 17000 miles £5,995
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995

ASTRA ESTATES

- 2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £7,995
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, SILVER, 14000 miles £6,995
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 15000 miles £6,995
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £6,995
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £6,995
- 2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 13000 miles £6,495
- 2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

- 2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles £13,995
- 2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £13,995
- 2010(10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £10,995
- 2009(09) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £8,995
- 2009(09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
- 2007(07) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £8,495
- 2006(56) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 16000 miles £7,995
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 13000 miles £7,995
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 16000 miles £7,495
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL AGILA CLUB MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £7,495
- 2007(07) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £6,995
- 2006(56) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,495
- 2008(58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £5,995
- 2004(54) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £5,995

CHRYSLER

- 2007(57) CHRYSLER PT CRUISER LIMITED 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles £6,995

PEUGEOT

- 2007(57) PEUGEOT 207 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, RED, 12000 miles £7,995
- 2007(57) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £7,995
- 2010(10) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £7,495
- 2007(57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 3000 miles £6,995
- 2007(07) PEUGEOT 207 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 17000 miles £6,495
- 2007(07) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2-TRONIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles £5,495

MITSUBISHI

- 2007(57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles £6,995

HONDA

- 2007(07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles £11,995
- 2007(07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 19000 miles £11,995
- 2007(07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 11000 miles £11,995
- 2007(07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SPORT ESTATE AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £11,995
- 2006(06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles £11,995
- 2009(59) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £10,995
- 2009(09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £10,995
- 2008(58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £10,495
- 2007(07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 9000 miles £8,995
- 2005(54) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 33000 miles £5,995

MERCEDES

- 2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £26,995
- 2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles £13,995
- 2008(57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180 KOMPRESSOR SE SPORTS COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £13,995
- 2008(08) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles £13,995
- 2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 16000 miles £12,995
- 2007(07) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 30000 miles £8,995
- 2003(53) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A140 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 45000 miles £4,995

VOLKSWAGEN

- 2010(10) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £12,995
- 2008(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £11,995
- 2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles £9,995
- 2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles £8,995
- 2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles £8,995
- 2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £8,995
- 2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1400 miles £8,995
- 2006(56) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £8,995
- 2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles £7,995
- 2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £7,495
- 2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 16000 miles £7,495
- 2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 22000 miles £6,995
- 2002(02) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 54000 miles £3,695
- 2001(Y) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 71000 miles £3,495
- 2001(Y) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH, RED, 63000 miles £3,995

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

- 2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £13,995
- 2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE DCI 130 FAP 5STR TD MPV AUTO, GOLD, 9000 miles £9,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

- 2007(57) MAZDA 5 1.6 TS2 MPV, BLUE, 12000 miles £6,495
- 2007(57) VAUXHALL MERIVA ENERGY CDTI TD MPV, BLACK, 24000 miles £5,995
- 2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 8000 miles £5,995
- 2006(56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,495
- 2004(04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,495
- 2007(57) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles £4,995
- 2008(58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE PLUS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 3000 miles £4,995
- 2007(57) FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 5DR HATCH, GREY, 8000 miles £4,995
- 2008(08) RENAULT TWINGO DYNAMIQUE 3DR HATCH, ORANGE, 35000 miles £3,995
- 2004(04) PEUGEOT 206 SE 5DR HATCH, MOONSTONE SILVER, 38000 miles £3,995
- 2008(08) VAUXHALL AGILA BUDY 16V TWINPORT MPV, GOLD, 20000 miles £3,995
- 2001(Y) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH, RED, 63000 miles £2,995

SKODA

- 2008(58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £8,995

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DrivingReview

by **STEVE LOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Alfa Romeo Giulietta

Giulietta – the car you can take home to Momma

ALFA Romeo could rightly scream "We woz robbed" – in Italian – after seeing its quite brilliant Giulietta pipped for European Car of the Year by a toy car.

Yes, for all its technology and promise for the future, I cannot accept that the all-electric range-challenged Nissan Leaf was a worthy COTY 2011 winner, scoring 257 points against the Alfa's 248.

I felt this even more after a whirlwind week-long affair with a £20,000 Giulietta 1.4 TB MultiAir Lusso – yes, it's easy to insinuate that you are having a fling with this particular Italian.

To continue the theme, while she/it can be racy, (the) Giulietta is also a girl/car you can take home to mamma/mum.

For while Alfas used to tend towards an uncompromising demeanour – the kind that would see you excited one minute and then ducking crockery the next in a human relationship – this car is great to live with.

Part of its appeal is the standard-fit DNA system already seen on the smaller and no less exciting Alfa MiTo supermini.

Ignoring the contrived abbreviation, DNA allows the driver to switch between Dynamic, Normal and All-Weather settings that change the personality of the car through the steering, brakes, gearbox and throttle, and suspension. It means the Giulietta can be hot hatch, sporty family motor and sober and sensible all-weather taxi.

Most of the time, you leave it in Normal, but the pulse quickens after selecting Dynamic for a sporting dash, while I proved All-Weather's effectiveness on a particularly icy morning when even a slightly leaden foot could have created problems.

And though Alfa was always feted as much for its petrol engines – including the legendary high performance twin-spark series – as its styling, the option of sporty diesels from the Fiat association has not harmed the brand revival.

The launch range (starting at £17,450) extends from 120bhp 1.4-litre to 235bhp 1,750cc petrol units, and from 105bhp 1.6-litre to 170bhp 2.0-litre turbodiesels.

Our engine here though was the 170bhp 1.4; you can hear just enough of it to know it revs well and is smooth, and it has power options to

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Motability

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at extra cost (Spark, Aveo at £375 and Cruze, Captiva at £410). 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. The warranty excludes wear and tear and renewable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. *Savings shown are against recommended retail price at time of publication. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO2 emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 32.1 (8.8), Extra-urban - 45.6 (6.2), Combined - 39.2 (7.2). CO2 emissions 191g/km. Cruze 1.6 S 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO2 emissions 159g/km. Spark 1.2 LT 5dr: Urban - 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 55.4 (5.1). CO2 emissions 119g/km.

0362

suit all moods – helped by that DNA system.

Driven normally though, it should average nearly 50mpg and it emits just 134g/km of CO2 – yet more evidence that small capacity turbocharged petrol engines can strike back at diesels though lightness and cheaper fuel at the pumps as well as increasingly competitive consumption and emissions levels.

But this is mundane stuff against an illustrious Alfa history unbowed by the weight of some dodgy times, too.

Diehards will want to know how this new Giulietta, which carries one of the marque's most evocative model names – the 1950s/60s Giulietta Sprint was one of the most handsome cars the company has produced – stacks up against past heroes.

Pretty well and it wears a stylish take on the trademark V-shape grille, plus a coupe look enhanced by the marque's well-established trick of concealing the rear door handles within the door frames of its five-door designs.

The classy cabin might not be as hard wearing as you might expect, but I have no doubt that Alfa's once flaky build quality is a thing of the past.

It is also a spacious car to be in, though that's not obvious to those in back, thanks to the high window sills. The boot lip also demands that bags and cases are lifted higher than normal.

But this is a car mixing character and practicality in a sector where it is increasingly hard to differentiate between competitors.

With more electric cars to come, it may also be one of the last family models you can buy before all the fun goes out of everyday driving.

DrivingPortfolio

ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.4 TB MULTIAIR LUSSO £20,000

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£110/year
Best rival	VW Golf

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the high boot lip but it's no deal breaker

NOT SURE: buyers have woken up to Alfa's spectacular revival

REALLY LIKE: the way the Giulietta mixes traditional Italian flair with modern practicality

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AUDI

A3, 1.9 SPORTBACK TDi SE, 2007, abs alloys cd diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint airbags power steering remote central locking body coloured bumpers, black, 52382 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TT, V6 Quattro S Tronic, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic cd central locking climate control electric windows heated seats leather interior power fold mirrors power steering, grey, 15000 miles, £20495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BMW

5 SERIES, 525m sport saloon, 2006, carbon black metallic with anthracite flashlight c, 79300 miles, £9850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.0i SE, 2005, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls body coloured bumpers, titanium silver, 45002 miles, £9500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, SE (AC), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 10019 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX, 2006, abs brakes diesel electric windows immobiliser power steering, green, 36000 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6 SX, 2006, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking, blue, 30509 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, 1.6i 16v XTR, 2008, sahara gold, 7500 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C3, 5, gl10wlr, central locking front electric windows electric mirrors abs traction control climate control power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag cruise control immobiliser full leather interior alloy wheels, black, 6500 miles, £13295, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, grey, 50 miles, £22000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PICASSO, 2.0i 16v EXCLUSIVE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking, blue, 24812 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XSARA, 1.6 HDi DESIRE, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls body coloured bumpers, tbc, 77000 miles, £3500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.3 MULTIJET SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 29050 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, silver, 6522 miles, £14500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, red, 55 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.2 DYNAMIC, 2004, central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, tiziano red, 58101 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, SE, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation traction control remote central locking auto headlights and wipers quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, emerald green with barley, 60400 miles, £14490, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XJ, SE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission bull bars electric windows full service history metallic paint leather interior power steering reverse parking aid adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, paciffic blue with dove leather, 70250 miles, £8490, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

FREELANDER 2, 2010, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation sunroof, silver, 11925 miles, £30000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER SPORT, 2007, alarm fitted alloy wheels cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player sun roof remote central locking, black, 53000 miles, £27000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, black, 8995 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

COOPER S, 1.6 convertible, 2005, blue metallic with black half leather sport seats, 46000 miles, £7850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911, 911 (996) Coupe, 2003, abs air con alloys central locking climate control electric windows full service history metallic paint leather interior airbags power steering reverse parking aid single cd sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking electric sunroof, polar silver, 37000 miles, £23900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, 1.8 LINEAR, 2004, abs brakes air con alloys automatic transmission electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering traction control remote central locking, black, 56500 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

9-5, 2.2 TiD LINEAR, 2005, alloys cd diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 107000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

AGILA, Design 1229cc 5 door, 2009, cd player central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering title check immobiliser electric windows, atlantis blue, 9350 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRA, Design (Plus Motorparks Pack), 2007, abs brakes air con alloys drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser airbags power steering single cd remote central locking, moonland grey, 22422 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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07 07 Fiat Panda Dynamic
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03 03 Ford Streetka 8v Luxury Convertible
1599cc, Manual, Petrol, 2 Door Convertible, Metallic Blue, Black Leather Interior, Alloys, 50,899 miles, SH, Air-Con, Front Fog Lights
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01 51 MG MGF 1.8 Freestyle
1796cc, Manual, Petrol, 2 Door Convertible, Metallic Black, Black Leather Interior, 45,688 Miles, SH, Alloys, E/W, C/L, Alarm, CD
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96 P Saab 900 Se Turbo Convertible
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01 Y Peugeot 607 SE 16V AUTO
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03 03Fiat Punto Active Sport
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by STEVELOADER

Van sales bucking the gloomy economic trend

EXPERTS are still divided about whether Britain's economy is in recovery, but they should draw some comfort from buoyant van sales figures during 2010.

These humble and often invisible vehicles are the oil in the nation's economic machinery and registrations soared 20 per cent last year, even though our economy grew feebly and even contracted in the last quarter of 2010.

As a result of that surging demand for vans – sales came close to a 22 per cent increase in December against the same year in 2009 – the motor industry's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) was cautiously optimistic about both truck and van sales.

A spokesman said: "During 2010 van and truck registrations posted one of the strongest annual rates of growth ever, at 15.9 per cent, as volumes started to recover from the recession.

Upbeat

"The van market rose in all but one month in 2010, boosted by better than expected business confidence and improved output from the construction sector. Truck registrations grew rapidly in the second half of 2010 and ended the year on par with 2009 levels.

"While we still have a long way to go to get volumes back to pre-recession levels, we expect more growth in 2011 and 2012."

The mood was not quite so upbeat on the auction front though, prompting Duncan Ward, general manager for commercial vehicles at BCA – which has a site at Paddock Wood – to say: "The economy is best described as fragile and we will be seeing the early effects of the VAT increase alongside continuing rising fuel costs, which means most small businesses will have a little less flexibility in their budgets than last year.

"Anyone looking to the SME [small to medium enterprise] sector to generate any major peaks in used van demand in the short term is likely to be disappointed – particularly as volumes are likely to increase over the coming month."

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TOP DOG: Mitsubishi's L200 can be said to have created the UK pick-up market over the past decade

CHOICE: Isuzu has returned to the UK with a bang – its popular Rodeo offers everything from this single cab version right up to well-specified Denver Max (see front of this section)

INDESTRUCTIBLE: Top Gear failed to 'kill' the Toyota Hilux

Best pick-up lines

by SAMDAWSON

PICK-UPS enjoyed a meteoric rise in sales during the Noughties – volumes soared more than 300 per cent in the first four years of the decade.

The key was the offer of a four/five-seat double cab, which offered private owner/operators something that was both practical and laden with image.

Many also came with 4x4 and decent off-roading capability as a bonus on top of tax benefits.

The daddy of the tribe was Toyota's long-running Hilux, given legendary status by Top Gear's efforts to 'kill' one by subjecting it to crashing, burning and flooding – it survived them all.

Toyota seized upon the opportunity to create a special version called 'Invincible'.

But the long-running best-seller was Mitsubishi's L200, available in a multitude of formats, from humble single cab two-wheel drive workhorses right up to the sporty and powerful 'Warrior' and 'Animal' flagships with as much specification and bling on them as an executive car – and twice the presence.

More recently, Isuzu has returned to the UK with the Rodeo series and offering the same range of choice as the Mitsubishi – its flagship versions wear the labels Denver and Denver Max.

Nowadays, pick-ups have far better road manners and comfort levels to go with all the on-board toys, too.

The rear load bed can also be roofed over and locked using one of the many cargo covers on the market, supplied by both dealers and independents – this feature adds hugely to the versatility of these impressive vehicles.

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White Van Man in the 21st century

by STEVELOADER

VAN design has been revolutionised over the past decade or so.

Operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Load capacities have also widened, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived courier vans, right up to a 17 cubic-metre delivery van.

Access has improved, too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vehicles above the supermini class now come with at least one sliding door as standard to aid loading – many buyers also take up the option of a second 'slider'.

There is now a choice usually of side-opening twin doors or a high lift tailgate as well, while cab doors generally have a reduced opening angle, with the double benefit of making it easy for a busy driver to grab the handle to close the door and also avoid it swinging wide and hitting something.

MAKING A SPLASH: The Mitsubishi Fuso Canter is one of the most versatile light commercial vehicle options currently on the market

On the performance front, petrol have been all but been displaced by the better economy and range plus better low down pulling power of four and five-cylinder diesels.

Diesel operating benefits are then compounded by extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer lasting parts.

The engine's partner – the gearbox – has also undergone a change. A six-speed manual gearbox is normally the standard – a couple of cogs better than only a few years ago – but urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutch-less transmissions.

These can usually be driven with manual, selection anyway, but are ideal for the stop-start traffic conditions of the town and city and can be as economical as a manual.

Van safety has also gained from the car market; along with driver's airbag and the option of passenger, side and front curtain airbags, there are active safety features including anti-lock braking (ABS), traction control (TCS), braking control (EBC) and electronic stability programme (ESP).

Fiat piling up the wins

FIAT Professional's Doblò Cargo is stacking up the awards and has not even been on the market for a year.

The latest gong is What Van? magazine's 2011 Light Van of the Year.

Editor Paul Barker said: "Smartly styled, efficient, practical and comfortable, the Doblò Cargo was a natural choice for our Light Van category winner."

Gerry Clarke, director at Fiat Professional UK said: "Our customers have told us how much they like the Doblò Cargo, and it's clear that commercial vehicle experts do, too. We're delighted with this award."

The new Doblò comes in seven forms to please a wide range of customers – Cargo, Cargo Maxi, Cargo SX, Cargo Maxi SX, Combi, Combi Maxi and Platform Cab – and offers one petrol and three diesel power options.

DELIVERY difficulties caused by pre-Christmas snow and ice have caused many van operators to check out the Fiat Fiorino with Traction+, which uses an electronic differential lock for improved grip and control.

It works by applying brake force to the driven wheel with the lowest grip and transferring extra torque to the other, thereby delivering more grip in slippery conditions.

Aware that such vehicles may be asked to go to places that others can't, Fiat also packages Traction+ with under-engine and added body protection and a suspension raised by three centimetres, yet the total add-on price starts at just £750.

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Models shown for illustration purposes. Models featured Dyna 300 SWB Tipper £15,545 plus metallic paint at £350, Hiace 280 2.5 SWB £13,945 plus metallic paint at £350 and Hilux Invincible double cab 3.0 D-4D £18,895 plus metallic paint at £385. Prices correct at time of going to press and exclude VAT, delivery and on the road charges. *Offers available for business users only on Dyna 300 SWB Tipper, Hiace 280 2.5 SWB and Hilux Invincible double cab 3.0 D-4D, plus all other commercial vehicles, when ordered, registered and financed on Toyota Contract Hire between 1 January and 31 March 2011 at participating Toyota Centres. Advertised rental based on a 3 year non-maintained contract at 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges apply. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Toyota Financial Services. Subject to availability.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

YOU may think web firm GForces has taken us over due to a front page story, Big Interview, and a mention in the Comment, but you will also find handy export tips thanks to Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce. And if you recall last week's comment/feature on broadband in Kent, you might like an update confirming the need for speed – businesses in a village near Canterbury could be better off faxing than emailing.

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Kent society beginning the conversion to OneSavings

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

BOSSES at the newly-created OneSavings have wasted no time in their aim to create a new force in banking.

Just days after City watchdog, the FSA (Financial Service Authority), endorsed controversial plans to spin the new organisation out of the former Kent Reliance Building Society (KRBS), the newcomer has confirmed that it plans to open seven new offices.

The move was all the more startling as KRBS chief executive Mike Lazenby had previously labelled branches as liabilities, and had slashed a 14-strong chain to just eight.

Nevertheless, he said: "We are absolutely delighted to have secured these particular agencies, which form part of our wider expansion programme. Our mission is to provide customers with affordable, competitive and efficient banking services and treat them fairly at all times – whether they choose traditional High Street-based forms of banking or whether they deal with us directly.

"Although other banks and building societies are actively closing branches and agencies, there will always be people who want access to financial services on the High Street. We just have to be sure they are in the right places and will be well used when they are open."

Despite the creation of OneSavings, the new branches will trade as Kent Reliance, Kent Reliance Banking Services or krbs outlets. Most are in the West Country, way beyond the traditional sphere of KRBS, and a sign of the new bank's ambition.

Alliance

Its creation was not without pain, however, as some borrowers and savers battled to prevent the alliance of one of the UK's oldest building societies with a young private equity firm JC Flowers, created by American billionaire and former Goldman Sachs executive J Christopher Flowers and already known for an audacious attempt to snap up Northern Rock before its rescue by the British taxpayer in 2008.

Some society members were wary of the Flowers deal, which sees the US firm chipping in £50million in return for gaining access to KRBS's £2.2bn worth of assets – it is Britain's 12th biggest building society.

KRBS managers countered that they had been increasingly boxed in by the mutual structure, which gave no room to expand during the economic downturn.

In any case, a majority of just over the required 75 per cent of KRBS shareholders voted in favour of transferring the society's business, assets and liabilities to OneSavings Plc, effective from February 1 – they become members of the new organisation.

The deal was duly referred to the FSA, which found no grounds to oppose it, and Mike Lazenby also told this newspaper previously: "We will continue to run as a mutual until JC Flowers owns 90 per cent of the business, which is a long way off.

"They have also agreed not to pay any dividends to their investors for the next five years, which is an incredibly long time in business.

"Five years is a long way off and a lot of things will happen before then. In the meantime we'll be going back to lending people money, which we haven't been able to do for some time, and we'll be offering some pretty good rates."

LOOKING AHEAD: Giles Smith, of GForces, believes it is vital to keep talent in the county

Planners must halt 'train brain drain' says IT boss

PLANNERS have been urged to be more sympathetic towards companies seeking to start up, grow and fuel the county's economic recovery, *writes Steve Loader*.

Giles Smith, MD of GForces at Bearsted near Maidstone, has built a highly successful website design and management company over the past 10 years.

The firm now has 120 staff, almost doubling in size over the past year, and will open a major extension to its headquarters in Caring Lane later in this one.

But the go-ahead for that development has cost much wrangling and Mr Smith admitted: "It wears you down."

He added: "Kent County Council and Maidstone Council declare that they want to encourage digital businesses to the area and we are a primary example, but a two-year planning battle suggested the opposite.

"We had some great allies within the council, so maybe it's just the planning processes that are out of date. All the planning department seemed to be on our side, and some of the leaders and the economic development manager were fantastic, but it still took two years."

Asked whether it had held the company back, he said: "Yes. Absolutely. Our recruitment drive had to go on hold."

He was exasperated that it also stalled the firm's 'Academy', a partnership involving 15 local schools, colleges and universities, attempting to identify and nurture IT talent early on and save them from, and their county from losing them, to what has become known as the 'train brain drain' – careers in London.

"We wanted to show local people that you don't have to go to London, that there are companies like us who are proud to be here and be successful," added Mr Smith, who practices what he preaches by running GForces with his three brothers, Tim, Jamie and Neil. All were born and raised in the Maidstone area.

"There is huge positive feedback from schools and the local education authorities about our academy and confirmation that not many companies are doing it – why not? The few organisations that are reaching out to schools are usually the banks, and you can guarantee that most 16- to 17-year-olds are asleep after the second slide because its not really inspiring.

"They love technology, they love the internet – they've grown up with it – so when you show them the variety of skills we are looking for, it inspires them.

"We are a commercial company, so we don't hide the fact that we do this to get the next two to four years' recruitment sorted. It's already been successful – our first two graduates are coming on full-time."

Comment

IT'S been a gloomy week, after news that the UK economy contracted by half a per cent in the final quarter of 2010. Though largely due to disruption from freezing weather, it still underlines the fragility of the recovery at a time when even grumpy pundits had predicted UK plc would mark time in Q4 2010 after a reasonably uptempo year.

The Bank's Governor, Mervyn King, didn't do much to cheer things, with a rather curmudgeonly summary of where we're at: inflation is set to gobble up wage gains and plunge us into the worst fall in our standard of living since the Great Depression.

It was rounded off with fatherly advice like that given to teenagers holding their heads after a riotous party, along the lines of "well chaps you had your fun - now you have to pay for it."

Happy days…

Still, I was cheered at least by an encounter with the youthful boss of a Kent company who is not only this week's Big Interview subject, but also delivered a Business Week front page story and considerable food for thought.

Giles Smith started GForces in Bearsted on a shoestring; the web firm now dominates its chosen sector and is hungry for international expansion.

Not only did he beat the drum for Kent, hanging on to and nurturing young talent – after catching 'em young too – but also delivered tangible proof that well-plotted technology has the power to deliver growth and progress.

I've often suggested that while Kent and the UK's traditional industries and our discredited financial sector struggle to get the economy on the move, IT can deliver more of the economies and efficiencies needed to oil the wheels of recovery.

As Giles points out, good results come from continually reviewing progress and strategy. In GForces' case, it means setting up a client's website is only part of the answer; it then has to be marketed and managed properly.

That could be a parable for reviving UK plc.

BUSINESS EDITOR STEVE LOADER

Virgin boss drops bomb on Boris Island scheme

By **NICK AMES**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of the world's leading airline bosses has voiced his opposition to 'Boris Island' off the Kent coast.

Steve Ridgeway, who has run Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic for 13 years, said plans by Mayor of London Boris Johnson to reclaim land to create a new airport close to Medway were "just not do-able".

The knockback comes after Mr Johnson hinted that the Government was warming to his controversial proposals for the £40 billion project.

Virgin chief executive Mr Ridgeway said the new airport would be on the wrong side of the capital and, while Hong Kong had set a successful precedent for such a development, the South East was too congested.

But he added: "We certainly back the debate about 'What is UK Ltd going to do about airport capacity and the long-term economic performance of the economy'."

Mr Ridgeway's comments are the most critical so far by a senior airline industry figure since the launch of the plan, seen by Mr Johnson as an alternative to expanding operations and capacity at Heathrow.

Prime Minister David Cameron promised last October that the Coalition had no plans to build a new airport anywhere in Kent, but the mayor insists the Government position is shifting and told Radio 4's Today programme on Tuesday: "It's crazy, I think, to have another 200,000 air traffic movements over the skies of London coming to an airport in the western suburbs. I don't think the people of London will wear it."

Both Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter and Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers have now called on the mayor to make his position clear.

Cllr Chambers revealed that the deputy chairman of Transport for London, Daniel Moylan, had paid a visit to Medway before Christmas in an attempt to win support for the estuary scheme.

Cllr Chambers said: "He asked me in this meeting if we would agree to an airport in the estuary if all the infrastructure for it – such as new train lines and roads – was based in Essex and not Kent.

"I responded that we in Medway could not comment on what should or should not happen in Essex, and reaffirmed the opinion of all at Medway Council, and the vast majority of people in Kent, that the mayor's island airport scheme is unnecessary, unworkable and unaffordable."

Meanwhile, the RSPB has reiterated its opposition to the scheme, describing it as a "pipe dream".

South East director Chris Corrigan said: "I'm sure the mayor doesn't want to go down in history as the man who decimated not just birds in the Thames, but global species too, while putting air passengers' lives at risk due to bird strike.

"I'd urge him to drop this costly pursuit now and look to further strengthening, greening and improving London's public transport systems."

CRASH LANDING? Boris Island plans

Phasing out retirement age of 65

By **NEIL EMERY**
Whitehead Monckton solicitors

CHANGES to the law on retirement are expected to come into force from March 31.

Since October 1, 2006, when the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 came into effect, it has been unlawful for employers to discriminate against employees on the grounds of age. The regulations also provided for a national default retirement age of 65, below which an employee could not be compulsorily retired (unless a lower age could be objectively justified).

Subject to complying with the requirement to provide between 6 and 12 months' notice of an intended retirement date, an employer has been able to retire an employee who has reached the age of 65, even if the employee does not wish to do so. In such circumstances, an employee would be unable to claim age discrimination or unfair dismissal.

Notification

But the Government's proposals are to abolish the default retirement age with effect from October 1, 2011, meaning that from March 31, 2011, it will no longer be possible for employers to provide employees with the minimum six months' notice of an intended retirement date.

After March 31, employers will not be permitted to issue new notifications of retirement on the basis of the default retirement age and after October 1, it will not be possible to retire employees compulsorily on the basis of the default retirement age – even if the notice of retirement was given before March 31.

Employers will still technically be permitted to have compulsory retirement ages, but they will need to justify them objectively, and the circumstances for this are likely to be extremely limited.

In practice, unless an employee is fairly dismissed on the grounds of, for example, capability, misconduct or redundancy, or there is an objective justification for an employer having a retirement age, most employees will have the right to continue working indefinitely, and irrespective of their age.

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■ LOBBYING by the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) is expected to see the Government relaxing powers allowing councils to seize homes left empty for more than six months.

Ministers are now proposing to extend the period to two years, leading CLA regional director Rupert Ashby to say: "This is an excellent example of strong CLA lobbying paying off to improve a bad law that was clearly unjust to property-owners.

"Owners can rest assured that there is less scope now for state interference with the management of their properties."

■ **MARKETING and media agency Big Plan Group, of Maidstone and Canterbury, has appointed Colin North to its board.**

It marks a return to Kent for him after three years as station director with Tindle Radio/Channel 103 on the Channel Islands. He spent the previous eight years within the sales, promotion and production sectors of Invicta Radio – now Heart.

He was welcomed to the board by Big Plan director Penny Williams, who added: "The business is set to expand rapidly and we now have a fantastic team in place to realise the potential of providing media and event management to businesses in Kent."

■ MEDWAY has a new accountancy business – Accounting Express.

It has been set up by Chatham-based businessman and chartered accountant, Philip Matthewman and aims to offer a low-cost book keeping and accountancy service, devised to help small businesses.

It will itself be based in a hub for smaller firms and start-ups: The Joiners Shop, within Chatham Historic Dockyard. Accounting Express is a franchised subsidiary of Sollertia Limited and the Medway arm is the fourth site it has opened in the UK.

■ **VISIT Kent – the county's tourism champion – has hosted the influential Group Travel Organisers Association (GTOA) National Conference and AGM for the first time.**

It gave Visit Kent the chance to show members of the travel industry what the county has to offer. After the conference at Ashford International Hotel, delegates visited one of Kent's most beautiful and interesting houses, Penshurst Place, Tonbridge, which was opened exclusively for their visit.

'Not spot' shows Kent broadband plans need boost

By **STEVE LOADER**

steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

BROADBAND speed is seen as vital to energising the county's economy.

So the revelation that the UK's slowest connection is not to be found in a crofter's hut on a Scottish moor, but near Canterbury, came as a major shock.

It means that anyone trying to run a business from Railway Hill in Barham, could find it faster to fax than send messages digitally, thanks to an average download speed of 0.13Mb/sec.

It certainly doesn't compare well with the UK average of 6.21Mb, according to the Top10.com website, where director Alex Buttle said: "With average download speeds only marginally faster than dial-up, Railway Hill in Kent has really hit the buffers.

Unacceptable

"Given that we're now in 2011 and elsewhere in the country people are enjoying download speeds in the high double digits, this is simply unacceptable and reinforces the broadband lottery in the UK."

Rural watchdog the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) was also unimpressed. Regional director Rupert Ashby said: "This is not just a problem in the back of beyond. Many areas just outside the South East's major towns, such as Barham, where small businesses should thrive, suffer from hopelessly inadequate broadband speeds."

He added that the CLA realised cash was tight, but rural businesses were unable to compete with urban rivals, which typically enjoyed 6Mb and more.

It wants to see a £530 million private-public partnership to bring all broadband users up to a minimum 2Mb as well as setting up a new superfast broadband, and also champions a "Final Third First" policy, promoting provision of decent broadband connections for rural "not spots" and areas with slow connections before speeding up broadband for others.

The CLA's stance accords with a ground-breaking project in Cornwall, where the county council formed a £132m partnership with BT to create a superfast 100Mb network by 2014, albeit with some EU cash.

It also follows hard on a feature we ran in Business Week, which asked whether Britain and Kent were, literally, making the right connections on broadband strategy.

However, Kent County Council cabinet member for Corporate Support Services, Roger Gough, argued that the Railway Hill figures were misleading. "Residents in Barham now have an alternative option after Kent County Council supported them with a (£50,000) community broadband grant in 2009. The grant funded a wireless broadband service, supplied by local company VFast, which contractually gives speed of 10Mbps and even higher speeds in practice.

"We understand just how important access to broadband is for our communities and local businesses, which is why we're working to increase access across the county.

"Often it is down to market forces to make a case for providers to install faster speeds.

"To reduce the number of 'not spots', we have provided money from our community broadband grant, which communities can bid for and part-fund business cases for broadband providers to install fixed broadband services.

"We have so far made £667,000 available, with a further £100,000 being made available this financial year. In total, this has benefitted more than 11,000 homes and businesses, and 17 communities.

"We will soon be making a further £1.5 million available for community broadband pilots and we will be lobbying providers for faster connection speeds across the county as part of our Connecting Kent Digital Strategy."

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MoCo accelerates its '3' broadband service

MOCO has announced the successful creation of a portal enabling speedy and cost-effective first-time connection for subscribers to the '3' mobile broadband system.

Before this development, new customers for the '3' service – the market-leading broadband dongle network – faced the potential bottleneck of contacting a call centre to finalise connection before surfing.

Under the new process, they still have that option but most will fast track using the new MoCo system, which is also the first major project derived from the Kent-based company's acquisition last September of Sussex software house, JiT Systsems.

MoCo then created its new MoCo Software Solutions division within the group headquarters in Rochester.

Richard Pilton, former JiT principal and now head of the new MoCo software arm, said: "This is what we were bought for: to develop bespoke software to streamline processes and operations.

'3' had a situation where it was running the No1 mobile broadband network and talking about the speed and ease of internet use on the move, but having to ask new customers to contact a call centre and be connected 'manually'.

"With this traffic generating 20,000 calls a month – expected to hit 25,000 a month during 2011 – there was also a call centre cost overhead for '3', which we have cut dramatically by developing this web portal.

"Most mobile broadband customers love the idea of hooking up this way – it chimes with the whole convenience of comms on the move – but even diehards can still patch into the call centre if they wish, but the operators there now simply tap into our new system, speeding up connection anyway and still driving down call centre costs for '3'.

'3' SPIRIT: Richard Pilton says trials went smoothly

"Trials went smoothly and it's just the sort of systems integration project work that we are offering to other companies or organisations in the comms/IT industry."

Systems architect Pilton heads a team of three within MoCo Software Solutions which, he says, was created after a long and successful association between MoCo and his old partnership, JiT Systems, operating out of Brighton: "It's a cliché, but they 'liked us so much, they bought the company'."

The development enhances MoCo's pioneering record. The company was established 25 years ago, just as the first mobile networks were set up in the UK.

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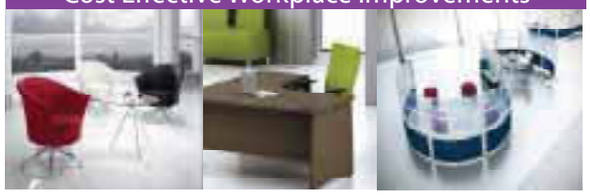

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GForces chief the best out of

KOSmedia BUSINESS WEEK THE BIG INTERVIEW

Setting up a website is now considered crucial to any business, but how much does any firm invest in keeping it fresh and up to date and, most importantly, ensuring that it is marketed and 'sold' to its intended audience? Not a lot is the answer on both counts – probably two good reasons why a small Kent IT firm has expanded exponentially over the past few years. It is the award-winning GForces of Bearsted, Maidstone – Business Week editor STEVE LOADER interviewed founder and MD Giles Smith.

GILES SMITH

FOR someone who has an impressive focus on where his fast-moving young company is headed, web guru Giles Smith is disarmingly frank about its first few steps.

"I set up GForces with no real idea about the internet, but just knew it was going to be big," he said.

"For the first six months of the company's life we were one of the worst web companies about, but we learned quickly what was needed to survive and grow.

"Sometimes there is nothing like jumping in the deep end and finding out whether you will sink or swim.

"And that's a characteristic of the company: we tend not to look back at our wins and successes. We prefer to look ahead and for what is around the corner and how we can improve.

"We are super critical, perhaps because my brothers are also involved. As senior management we always prefer to have a critical appraisal of the situation and ask why we are not doing better."

It is a philosophy that has evolved into the GForces Trinity: web platform, web management and web marketing – recognition that customers not only need attractive and effective websites, but ones that can be adapted and evolved and also 'sold' to their chosen audience.

"We set out to be something different," he said. "That's always been a USP, that we are much more considered in our approach. There are lots of web companies that will do you a very good web page but fall short on the other things: actually marketing the site and understanding the data that you get out of it and how that drives your decisions."

The approach has landed a string of industry awards, despite the fact that GForces competes in and leads one of the most competitive sectors – the motor trade, with clients including major dealer chains like Lookers and Peter Vardy.

Last year, GForces grew sales 80 per cent, boosted turnover 66 per cent and almost doubled staff to its current 120.

It now holds more than a third of the UK market and Giles, 34, thinks this is close to the ceiling for one firm.

Asked whether this meant diversification into another sector, he says he would rather concentrate on what the company knows well, so its sights are now being trained

GILES SMITH'S CV

- 1999 – graduates from Bournemouth University with a degree in Leisure Marketing
- 1999 – sets up GForces at his parents' home.
- 2001 – takes offices in College Road, Maidstone
- 2007 – moves company to bespoke offices in Caring Lane, Bearsted.

TIGHT-KNIT: Giles Smith says management and staff strive together to come up with and develop fresh ideas

aiming to get Kent IT talent

PASSIONATE: Giles Smith wants to create a train of IT talent for the county's future

on Europe where dealer networks and distributors often have a similar structure to the UK.

It could all have been very different though. After attending Maidstone Grammar School, Giles opted for a degree in leisure marketing because: "I wanted to spend three years down in Bournemouth and that seemed like a very interesting degree; it wasn't, but it was an excuse to enjoy myself.

"But maybe because I'd heard it all before, it inspired me to go and start my own business. My father built and sold two IT companies and made a comfortable living so that was an inspiration.

"When I left university, I did the usual: started looking at jobs in the City and then realised I had no interest in working in London. I'd always wanted to set up a company so I did. It's a lot easier when you have nothing to lose – I was an unemployed graduate living at home."

However, he still recalls getting up 5am to light a stove in order to heat the outbuilding/office given over to the fledgling firm by his family, and it was more than two years before GForces was able to take an office in College Road, Maidstone.

He has forgotten the origins of the company name – he insists, the 'G' didn't come from his christian name.

But the futuristic label and its opposing arrows 'logo' fit perfectly with the hi-tech headquarters the firm had built specially and moved into in 2007 – it will move into an extension there this year that will double floor space.

However, a lengthy planning delay (see our front page story) means the firm has also taken further space at Maidstone's Turkey Mill office complex, where it runs the Skunkworks – a label used typically in the technology industry for departments where the most cutting-edge thinking and developments go on.

And nurturing and helping to fine tune staff dominated the interview; though he owns a Ferrari as a sign of his success, Giles runs a relatively humble VW Golf as his everyday car.

Start him on the subject of his staff though and he becomes animated and passionate about his goal to create a train of IT talent for Kent. He and his three brothers Tim, 36, Jamie, 32, and Neil, 30, were all born and raised in Maidstone and have since joined him as directors of a local success story.

Giles said they and their company now wanted to encourage others to join that success and are bidding to recruit them young through the GForces Academy, a relationship the company has formed with 15 local schools, colleges and universities.

"Our belief is that if you open the eyes of somebody young while they are making their decisions on A-Levels, maybe even GCSEs, and just show them that you don't have to be a graphic designer to work in the internet – you can be a social media guru, for instance, knowing how to use Facebook and things like that.

"On delivery of a large scale auto project you will usually look at about 15 different skill sets interacting on the same project.

"We also wanted to show local people you don't have to go to London – there are companies like us locally."

He also highlighted how the IT talents in potential recruits were showing up earlier: "Sixteen-years-olds have a greater insight into social networking because that's what they do every day, and they will use every other device other than a laptop.

"The ideas they have are fantastic and one motto we have here is 'never say never'. Younger people bring fresh ideas to the table and keep us on our toes and ensure the survival of the company for the future."

Giles is married with a baby son and lives close to the office in Bearsted – in his spare time, he enjoys as much time as possible with his family.

HIGH-TECH: GForces' modern headquarters in Bearstead, Maidstone

GILES' TOP TIPS

- **Integrity is everything – "It's almost a lost value these days. We want our staff to be honest and upfront with customers. We don't want lies and deceit. You can't build a relationship on that."**
- Employ for the person not the job – "We have had senior management join us and been unable to give them a title or definitive position; we've brought them on because we know they will naturally find their area."
- **Keep asking questions about your business – "My decision to go for the internet was driven by no more than asking myself 'What is the next big thing in technology?'"**
- Make work experience work for your business – "When people come for work experience here, they don't get told to sort out a filing cabinet. They will get in front of a customer – maybe not in a speaking role – and be exposed to meetings and decisions and expected to contribute. There is no point trying to attract someone to our business by asking them to make the tea."

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The Bridge 'eat and sleep' deal

WHITBREAD has bought 1.5 acres from Dartford Borough Council and developer ProLogis.

The site at The Bridge will be used for a 61-bed Premier Inn and Beefeater Grill restaurant, subject to a planning application already submitted to Dartford Borough Council.

It is hoped work will start soon on the development close to Junction 1a of the M25 – completion is expected to create 60 jobs.

It also seen as building momentum for The Bridge development, with Whitbread spokesman Derek Griffin, saying: "We're investing here because we believe it will be good for our customers and good for our business."

MAIDEN VOYAGE: P&O chief executive Helen Deeble says the Spirit of Britain will revolutionise ferry travel and offers a leap forward in quality of build and the service the company will be able to offer

Super ferry's debut

SPIRIT of Britain – the biggest ferry ever seen on the Dover Straits – has made its maiden voyage across the Channel to Calais.

The P&O Ferries vessel, which has a capacity for 2,000 passengers and four kilometres of traffic parked end to end, marks a revolution in ferry travel with a new design aimed at enhancing fuel economy, keeping running costs down and boosting the company's environmental credentials.

Costing 180 million – around £152 million – the Finnish-built ferry includes convenient parking, with a private car deck for motorists accessing the ship, and a wide choice of dining and lounges with entertainment for children.

The ship will be officially named by Kent Olympics star Dame Kelly Holmes at the end of March and be joined on the Dover-Calais service by a sister ship, Spirit of France, in September.

P&O Ferries chief executive, Helen Deeble, said: "We are delighted to welcome this fantastic new ship to Dover ready to start service later this month.

"She offers a leap forward in terms of her size and the quality of the build and I'm confident that she'll provide a fantastic experience for all of the customers who will travel on her in the years to come."

Spirit of Britain will sail five times every 24 hours, with standard return ticket prices starting at £39 each way for a car and up to nine passengers travelling throughout 2011.

Online holiday expert wins again

HOLIDAY Extras – the Hythe-based market leader in travel add-ons – has been named Best Insurance Provider for the third year running at the Travel Weekly Globe Awards.

It also picked up a further trophy at the London event, presented by comedian Jimmy Carr.

Head of partnerships at Holiday Extras, Andrea Clayton (pictured) said: "We are thrilled to have won best travel insurance provider, as voted by the travel trade, for the third year running, and also best add-ons for the eighth year."

This latest award follows a run of success for Holiday Extras.

The company was shortlisted for the National Business Awards Blackberry Award for Customer Focus in 2010, and won Best Customer Service and Commitment in the Kent Excellence in Business Awards (KEIBA) in 2010.

THRILLED: Andrea Clayton with Holiday Extra's globes

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Now's the time to export

By **JO JAMES**
Chief Executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

Following the winding up of the Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce, as reported in Business Week last week, Kent Invicta – the county's biggest chamber has expanded its export offices. The chamber, which already included the Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone areas, intends to extend its export lifeline with two more staff in order to bridge the gap left by its neighbour. Chief executive Jo James said: "We felt it was important to step up to the plate at a time when Kent business is being urged to export and, indeed, is actually better placed geographically to export to its neighbours across the Channel than it is to sell to destinations within the UK."

ONE of the key factors in the economic recovery of UK is going to be the export market.

While the domestic market is important, there is little doubt cutbacks on Britain's domestic expenditure, future growth of the home market will be slow. Doubtless the same may well apply to overseas markets, but this market has the advantage of being much bigger. To cope with any sluggishness in the home market, companies may need to exploit the potential of a much wider area.

And exporting is not just a matter of products. Skills, services, innovation, even knowledge, are all exportable and it can be a two-way street; close connection with, and experience of, overseas markets can feed back into the efficiency and productivity of the company concerned.

Potential

Recent research suggests that Kent is not an over-enthusiastic exporter, with eight per cent of businesses regularly exporting, compared with a regional average of 10 per cent. This is despite the fact that the level of occasional exporters in the county stands at 24 per cent, the second highest in the region, and 28 per cent of Kent firms have received overseas enquiries, the highest in the region.

So there is plenty of potential already waiting to be exploited.

However, exporting is not necessarily simple and straightforward: there are inevitably rules and regulations, which vary from country to country and region to region; the need to establish the best market for any particular product or service; and a lot of documentation needed to comply with export certification requirements.

Which is where Kent Invicta Chamber can help.

DELIVERING THE GOODS: The export industry is vital to the financial recovery in the UK

The Chamber has a Business Support Service with qualified business advisers who can introduce you to the exporting process, and works in close liaison with several other business support organisations – British Chambers of Commerce, UKTI, Business Link, Enterprise Europe Network, for instance – to guide you through the various stages with minimum hassle.

When it comes to the actual exporting, the Chamber runs a full Certification Service, providing information, advice and guidance on the necessary documentation from start to finish.

So exporting can open up a huge new market for your product or service, and it may be easier than you think, but there are many other considerations. Exporting needs commitment, planning and strategy. Here are a few points to consider:

MARKETS: Where are the best ones for your purpose, and how do you access them?

RESOURCES: Does the business have the financial resources, people and management capability to deal successfully with other cultures and does your product and service need modification or different approvals to be sold overseas?

EXPERIENCE: Do you know how to negotiate contracts with overseas customers, distributors and agents, and have you managed growth projects before?

CONTROLS: Is your administration set up to cope with extended transport lines and new currencies and can your product and service quality prevent expensive recalls and reworking?

IDEAS: Can you test or pilot this leap into export, managing the project through to a conclusion and dealing innovatively with problems arising?

LEADERSHIP: Is everyone with you on this – the staff and directors – and can you define milestones to demonstrate progress, manage expectations and keep people motivated?

If you are considering exporting, Kent Invicta Chamber can help you formulate a strategy and prepare a plan. If you already export, the Chamber has the resources and services to help you expand your markets, and a full certification service for your export documentation.

Contact us on 01233 503838, or email exports@kentinvictachamber.co.uk for further information.

Export documentation explained

ONCE you have established the right product and market place, you need to deliver your goods on time and ensure that you receive your payment quickly.

This can be a simple process when you know how, but understanding which document is required for each shipment to each destination can be overwhelming.

What should be a very simple process can be time-consuming and costly; accurate completion and authentication of export documentation is vital.

The Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce can make the whole process as straightforward as possible and ensure that your goods travel with ease, providing you with peace of mind.

The Chamber provides a wide range of documentation services and guidance on trade procedures to businesses of all sectors and sizes. There are a range of documents required when exporting your goods.

These include:

EC CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

A certificate needed to meet overseas customs requirements to qualify for (normally) zero import duty as part of International Trade agreements. Sometimes also needed to comply with banking requirements when trade is conducted under Letters of Credit.

ARAB-BRITISH CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

Similar to the above but used for exports to the Arab League States.

EUR 1

Customs Movement Certificate issued in the country of export to enable claims for preferential import duty levels on goods being exported to EC preferential partner countries.

A.TR

Customs Movement Certificate for goods in EC free circulation (i.e. duty paid) being exported to Turkey. A.TR allows import into Turkey without payment of customs duty.

LEGISLATION

Some markets require documentation to be legalised. This can be arranged by the Chamber via the Consular section of the relevant Embassy or though the Foreign Office.

ONLINE CAPABILITY

Exporters undertake much of their export activity online, from researching markets, assessing competition and exchange rate advice to processing export documents online.

Kent Invicta Chamber provides an online documentation service allowing exporters to apply for and receive their documentation electronically.

This includes EC Certificates of Origin, Arab Certificates of Origin, EUR1s and A.TRs.

Businesses are now taking advantage of the online service and finding that the turnaround time for obtaining export documentation has been significantly reduced.

Business benefits of using online services:

SPEED

By forwarding your export documentation to Kent Invicta Chamber electronically, you could have them checked, certified and returned to you for printing within minutes. Thus allowing your business to save valuable time and money, and ensure your goods reach their destination on time.

SERVICE

A faster service means you can offer a better service to your customers; and, of course, because the whole process is electronic, you can free up staff normally used for delivery and collection of export documents.

SIMPLICITY

Forwarding and receiving documents electronically and printing them off at your own premises is effortless, quick and easy.

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on Investment & Funding

TALKS A GOOD GAME

England's rising hockey star aiming to put injury hell behind him in time for next year's London Olympics

Interview with
DAVID PRITCHARD

Jackson fighting for return to full fitness

AMID all the razzamatazz of the National Indoor Hockey Finals on Sunday, one spectator at Wembley Arena is likely to cut a lonely figure on the sidelines.

Ashley Jackson, one of Britain's very best hockey players and a global star in the sport at the age of 23, will have to watch his East Grinstead team-mates as they go for a third successive title.

At least it will be more than his involvement at the Indoor World Cup in Poland next month. Jackson was expected to play a central role in England's debut in the competition, but instead he will stay behind nursing an injury wondering when he will be able to return.

The goalscoring midfielder, who went to school in Tunbridge Wells, has been suffering from osteitis pubis, a painful inflammation of a joint in the pelvis, for almost a year. The injury is not uncommon in elite athletes across a range of sports where repetitive actions lead to excessive stress on the pelvic bone.

It has been managed by cortisone injections so far, but a recurrence at the end of last year has forced Jackson to take a break from the game.

"It's got to the point now where it's just got to be sorted out," he said. "It was having an impact on what I could do in daily life, but also in my training as well.

"Before Christmas, when it was at its worst, I guess I was doing three-day training camps with the squad and then pretty much being out of action for the next two days, not really being able to move around too well.

"It's not too worrying; it's something that can be solved. It's just unfortunately there's no timeline. We've got a plan between the medical staff, myself and the coaches, but we can't put a time on it. It's not one of those where I will definitely be ready to run in a few weeks or a few months, unfortunately it's just a case of cracking on with the rehab and see where we go.

"It was nice over Christmas to have a three-week period where I wasn't involved in any hockey, but there wasn't really any on at that time. Now the guys are back, with finals night this weekend and the World Cup isn't that far away, where I'm going to be missing things and it's going to be pretty difficult."

OLYMPIC HOPE: Ashley Jackson gives Mayor of London Boris Johnson a few tips

Not having a return date casts doubt over how many big events the former Tunbridge Wells player will miss for club and country. After Wembley and the Indoor World Cup the focus will switch back to the second-half of the domestic outdoor season, where East Grinstead top the Premier Division.

The end of the season is followed by the knockout stages of the Euro Hockey League, where East Grinstead's participation could last until July. Internationally the squad train together three times a week and have two tournaments before the European Championships and the Champions Trophy.

For the top British players the calendar is relentless as preparations build for a tilt at the Olympic title in London 2012. Jackson has accumulated 105 international caps since making his debut in November 2006 and has played in eight major tournaments, including the Beijing Olympics.

The former Sutton Valence schoolboy played in the World Cup, Champions Trophy and Commonwealth Games last year and believes the hectic schedule has contributed to his injury.

"In the last few years we've had a number of injuries across the team which maybe we wouldn't have had before because of the sheer volume of training, games and tournaments we're now playing in," he said. "I'm sure it has [played a part] but everyone has to become fitter and stronger to fight off the injuries all the time.

"Last summer was non-stop all the way through and then we were straight into the Commonwealths. Maybe there was a bit of a sense - not it was too much - but exhaustion mentally more so than on the physical side, but that catches up on you. It's another busy summer and unfortunately it just keeps rolling round until London."

Perhaps the one blessing is the injury did not come in a year's time, when the Olympic countdown will be reaching its final stages. There are still more than 18 months before the biggest prize in hockey is up for grabs, with Britain looking for a first title in 24 years.

The build-up to the Games is already well advanced in most people's minds, but with so many potential pitfalls between now and then, Jackson insists he does not think that far ahead.

"I only think about the Olympics when someone mentions it," he said. "I've got to get fit and I want to play in the Europeans at the end of the summer and there are plenty of other things between now and then.

"It's just another tournament. Obviously it's a pretty big tournament and the fact it's at home makes it even bigger, but it is just another tournament. I probably think about Beijing more than I think about what could happen in London."

A fit and firing Jackson, voted World Young Player of the Year in 2009, will be central to Britain's Olympic hopes, so finding a permanent solution to his injury will be a priority for the national set-up.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

SIDELINED: Ashley Jackson's meteoric rise to the top of English hockey has been stalled by a long-term pelvis injury

FACT FILE

NAME: Ashley Jackson
AGE: 23
SENIOR CLUBS: East Grinstead, HGC (the Netherlands)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT: November 28, 2006
CAPS: 105
GOALS: 57
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Gold, EuroHockey Nations Championship 2009; Silver, Champions Trophy 2010; World Young Player of the Year 2009

COUNTDOWN TO THE OPEN

165 DAYS UNTIL THE OPEN – THE NUMBER OF STROKES TAKEN BY NOBORU SUGAI AT THE 2003 OPEN, THE LAST TIME IT WAS HELD AT ROYAL ST GEORGE'S. THE JAPANESE GOLFER SHOT ROUNDS OF 83 AND 82, 23-OVER-PAR, MISSING THE CUT BY 15 SHOTS.

THE HARSH winter has delayed the final major course renovations at Royal St George's ahead of this summer's Open Championship in Kent.

Work at the renowned course in Sandwich Bay on riveting the final bunkers was scheduled to finish before Christmas. It was made impossible by the severe cold weather in December, with the snow and frozen ground halting all improvements.

Fortunately with the milder conditions since the turn of the year work has resumed and Christopher Gabbey, secretary at Royal St George's, believes it will all be completed soon.

He said: "We have been slowed up a bit in preparing the course because of the bad weather. It's not damaged the course in anyway, just stopped us from getting on with the work on the course. We are catching up now; it's just been a case of putting a bit more work in.

"All the bunkers will have been re-done by the end, which is needed because the trouble is the south-facing ones do not survive as well as the north-facing bunkers."

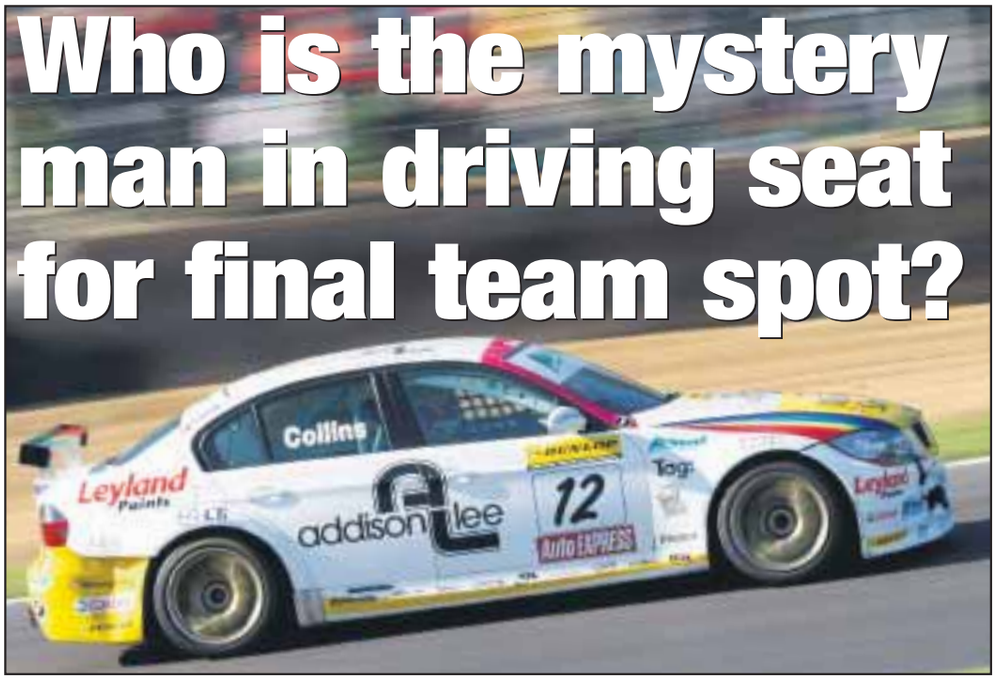
During the cold weather ground staff were detailed into other jobs around the periphery of the club, such as trimming hedges and trees.

Once the bunkers are completed the focus will switch to more cosmetic improvements to get the course ready for the tournament, which begins on July 14. The next major change will come in April, when construction on the spectator grandstands begins.

Picture: ADY KERRY

HALT: The harsh winter has taken its toll on course preparations ahead of this year's Open at Royal St George's

Who is the mystery man in driving seat for final team spot?



IN THE FRAME: Ben 'The Stig' Collins is one of the names in the hat for a berth with Motorbase Performance

By TOM HOWARD

Touring team in talks to fill seat ahead of next season

MOTORBASE Performance are in talks with several drivers about filling the vacant third seat for their 2011 British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) campaign.

The Wrotham-based team, who are going in with three cars in this year's BTCC, announced two faces of their new driving line up earlier this month, but the identity of the third driver remains a mystery.

Mat Jackson and Porsche Carrera Cup graduate Liam Griffin will definitely drive for Motorbase this year, while Steven Kane, Ben Collins – formerly Top Gear's 'The Stig' – and Porsche Super Cup driver Tim Bridgeman are all in the frame to join them.

Team owner David Bartrum expects to unveil his third driver next month and has revealed there are several candidates vying for the seat.

TALKS: Steven Kane (right) is one of the drivers on team owner David Bartrum's (left) list Pictures: NICK DUNGAN

He said: "We're not about to name anyone yet and we are still looking at people for that third seat. The idea of announcing the two drivers was to give a few of the other guys more time to achieve their budget and let everyone know we are going to run three cars.

"There are two or three drivers we would really like, but everything needs to be in the right budgetary position and there are also drivers in position to join that we like. We are not short of drivers, but the financial criteria has to be met."

The team have also confirmed they plan to embark on a nine-day test programme to prepare for the new season and that they intend to compete in the 2011 Porsche Carrera Cup.

The new BTCC season begins at Kent's Brands Hatch on April 2 with Motorbase looking to follow their performance in the first round last year where they completed a one-two at Thruxton.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

TOP SPOT: Dan Caprice and England are ranked number one

Sevens ace Caprice in squad aiming for World Series glory

RUGBY sevens player Dan Caprice flies to New Zealand this week as England resume their quest to claim the title of world champions for the first time.

Having taken 44 points from the first two events of the IRB World Series, Caprice and England start the year ranked as the competition's best side, but face a stiff challenge if they are to hold onto top spot next weekend.

With the All Blacks just four points behind them in second place and a partisan crowd expected at Wellington's Westpac Stadium, the former Sevenoaks schoolboy is prepared for a hostile reception.

Caprice said: "The crowd don't really favour us down there and we tend to have things thrown at us, so it's very different to Hong Kong and Dubai where we get all that support. Going to somewhere like New Zealand, it does make a difference, but sometimes it can really pump you up."

England face pool matches against the United States, Cook Islands and Wales next Friday, knowing any slip-up is likely to land them a quarter-final tie against New Zealand on Saturday morning.

Caprice insists the Red Roses will not be intimidated by the Kiwi support and believes the onus will fall on the host nation to perform.

He said: "Home advantage can work either way, sometimes it's a hindrance and there won't be massive pressure on us.

"I don't know how we're perceived by other teams but on paper, we're the team to beat and there's no reason why we shouldn't be favourites."

Ransom makes step up to England's under-20s

INTERNATIONAL rugby is back on the agenda for Ben Ransom next weekend as the Kent full-back gets his first taste of action with England's under-20 side.

Ransom, who has forced his way into the first-team reckoning at Premiership club Saracens, makes the step up from under-18 level and will be part of the England squad travelling to Wales for their Six Nations opener next Saturday.

A former Tonbridge schoolboy, Ransom became an integral member of the highly successful under-18 group and is expected to feature prominently one level up.

The 32-man squad named by head coach Rob Hunter for the Six Nations will also be the group which represents England at this summer's junior World Championships in Italy.

Ransom, who has spent time on loan at Blackheath since signing for Saracens, will join up with his team-mates on Tuesday as England conclude their preparations for the Wales clash in Llanelli.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

NEXT LEVEL: Ben Ransom is in England's under-20s squad for the Wales game

Ladies picked in bid to retain Six Nations title

ENGLAND have named two Kent players in their squad for next weekend's trip to Wales as they look to begin a successful defence of their women's Six Nations title.

Catherine Spencer, who stepped down as captain earlier this month, will start in her regular number eight slot while Rachael Burford has been named among the replacements for the clash at Cross Keys RFC in Gwent.

England swept to the Grand Slam last season, but they have unfinished business against the Welsh, having lost 16-15 on their last trip across the border in 2009.

Now under the captaincy of Katy McLean, Spencer and Burford are looking to further raise the profile of the sport following England's run to the World Cup final last September.

Ashford-born Spencer is set to win her 59th cap in next Sunday's game while Burford, who started her rugby career with Medway, will be aiming to impress from the bench and tie down a regular starting place as the championship unfolds.

Picture: RUGBYMATTERS.NET

REGULAR: Rachael Burford returns as England start their Six Nations defence

Pictures: ADY KERRY

GUTTED: Skipper Charlotte Edwards

England duo disappointed as women lose grip on Ashes

ENGLAND skipper Charlotte Edwards admitted she was gutted at returning home empty-handed after relinquishing the women's Ashes for the first time in six years.

Edwards, who also captains Kent, led an inexperienced England side into the one-off Test in Sydney and the tourists' short-comings with the bat eventually proved to be their downfall as Australia eased to victory by seven wickets.

A third-wicket stand of 125 between Sarah Elliott and Alex Blackwell saw the hosts across the line on Tuesday and Edwards was left to reflect on a below-par performance.

"I'm gutted to hand over the Ashes," she said. "Our bowlers did a fantastic job but unfortunately we didn't put enough runs on the board. We would have liked to make it a bigger chase.

"We've had a relatively inexperienced side out here and for many of them this was their first Test match. I'm proud of how the team have backed each other and really fought to the end – the character and commitment has been fantastic."

Holding a first-innings lead of 48, England initially looked to have the upper hand, with Edwards hitting a valiant 114 not out in their total of 207.

Her Kent team-mate, Lydia Greenway, struggled with the bat, however, hitting just 15 runs in the match and England slumped to 149 all out in their second innings.

With the bowlers of both sides having dominated proceedings for three days, Elliott and Blackwell then took centre-stage to see Australia home.

However, Edwards and England can take plenty of positives from the tour after claiming a 4-1 win in the earlier Twenty20 series.

• ***Read Lydia Greenway's blogs from Down Under at www.kentnews.co.uk.***

TOUGH: Lydia Greenway did well in T20 series

Captain Key set for a testing summer

Kent skipper predicts toughest season at the helm

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT captain Rob Key admits this summer is likely to be his most testing as skipper and that it's "probably a good job" the club are playing in Division Two of the LV= County Championship.

The county's threadbare squad were asked to play the majority of games in all competitions last summer, which ended with Kent's relegation from Division One on the final day. With finances even tighter this year, additions – which are desperately needed in the bowling department – look highly unlikely. It promises to be a testing campaign for the county's seamers who will be asked to play every game, injury permitting.

Key, in his 14th season at Kent, is usually confident about his side's chances in all competitions at the start of the year, but is less so heading into this season.

Tough

"It's quite an exciting time but it's a year of very much unknowns," he said. "You literally don't know; I feel we could go up from the second division and I feel that we could have a tough time. I have no real clue as to how the year is going to go. In the past I would think we would do well in t20 and one-day competitions and while I think we could be up in all of them, we could also be down there in all of them.

"It sounds negative, but it's probably a good job we are in the second division because it will give our youngsters a chance to blossom at a lesser standard as it were, with less pressure. It's those times in my experience at Kent when you turn up at pre-season and you're driving in and you think the worst at times, but if someone stands up and gets a 50-wicket year; whether it's Adam Ball or anyone else, it then seems all right."

Unless finances improve during the summer with the introduction of floodlit cricket at St Lawrence, Kent will not have an overseas player or have a budget for any other additions to the squad. While disappointed at not being able to call on an experienced overseas for the 2011 season, Key, the former England batsman, will be expecting the likes of Sam Northeast, Alex Blake and Matt Coles to make more match-winning contributions after a full summer's experience of county cricket under their belts.

MATCH-WINNERS: Rob Key will hope the likes of Alex Blake (above) will contribute as Kent look to clinch promotion back into Division One Pictures: ADY KERRY

"We'll have a look [at additions] but it's just going to come down to finance; it's as tight as it can be at the moment and at this stage I don't think there is any room for anything. There are loan options and stuff like that, but if the season started tomorrow I don't think we'd have any of that. The picture at the start of the summer would have to change which is unlikely.

"I expect this year might actually be the year for one of Coles, Northeast and Blake, someone not necessarily on the radar, to have a standout year.

"It's times like this when you feel the struggle that we are in, from a numbers point of view, actually if some of these youngsters come through, then nothing's an issue."

Whites put a high price on Birchall

DOVER Athletic boss Martin Hayes says it would take a bid from a Championship club to tempt star striker Adam Birchall from Crabble.

The former Barnet forward had hit 30 goals before this weekend's game against Ebbsfleet, including 11 in the FA Cup, but as yet the Whites have had no official approach for their prized asset.

The Maidstone-born forward has earned rave reviews for his performances this season, but says he has been thoroughly enjoying his football at Dover. While the club have not received any offers, there has been speculation that Championship side Crystal Palace are interested in the striker. Hayes, however, is keen to keep hold of Birchall and his entire Dover squad, and is confident the striker will remain once the transfer window slams shut on Monday night.

"I'm not aware of anything major going on regarding my players and I'm not anticipating anything," he said. "I'm not aware of any interest in Adam (Birchall) which is surprising, but I'm not unhappy with that.

"I think it would have to be Championship side or a top League One club to prise Adam away and a club who will go on and achieve things. It's all speculation and we're not pushing anything."

The Whites boss, who has said in the past that he wouldn't stand in Birchall's way of a move to a League club, feels that should his star striker earn a move away, it would be more likely at the start of next season.

He said: "For him to go now would be very difficult as he will have to transfer from part-time to full-time football, which could take a couple of months.

"It would be tough for him to make an impact for the kind of money these clubs would have to fork out. It may be something that carries on in the summer and that may suit everybody."

PRIZED ASSET: Striker Adam Birchall has already scored 30 goals for Dover this season Picture: ADY KERRY

Call for disciplined response to punishment

DEAL & BETTESHANGER chief David Storrie says lessons must be learned following their 15-point deduction for on-field violence earlier this season.

The Lions were handed the punishment after their home game against East Grinstead on October 30 was abandoned when fighting broke out between players, officials and supporters.

Feeling the severity of the sanction was too harsh, Deal appealed against the judgment, but a Rugby Football Union (RFU) disciplinary panel last week dismissed the appeal.

With his side now facing a battle to avoid relegation from London 2 South East, Storrie, the club's director of rugby, said Deal would simply have to take its medicine and learn from the incident.

He said: "I think the lessons are that everybody, spectators and players, have seen what happens when there's foul play.

"It was a severe lesson to all other clubs because there have been seven occasions this season of pitch invasions and [the RFU] won't stand for it any more, so we are the sacrificial lamb."

Deal have also been handed a further 15-point deduction, suspended until the end of next season.

Storrie added: "It's another millstone hanging round our neck, the players are all aware of that and we just need to keep our discipline."

Having seen video evidence from the game, the original RFU panel handed East Grinstead an identical penalty and their view of the incident was damning.

A statement read: "The events shown on the DVD footage cannot, and should not, be described as anything other than utterly shameful. They have no place in the game of rugby (or any sport) and offend against the heart of the game's ethos."

FRACAS: Deal & Betteshanger (in stripes) were deducted 15 points after brawl

Shakey not ready to hang up his helmet

TOM HOWARD charts the career of Sheppey superbike star Shane Byrne, who is showing no signs of slowing down just yet

AFTER more than 15 years in the saddle, Shane 'Shakey' Byrne's appetite for winning titles looks as strong as ever following a move back to the British Superbike Championship (BSB).

Over the years the Sheppey rider has grown to become one of Britain's most popular and successful riders. After quite humble beginnings, he has beaten some of the world's greatest riders, and insists he is far from hanging up his helmet.

Winning championships on two wheels has always been Shakey's target from an early age and his first encounter with a bike came on holiday at a Butlins holiday camp at the age of six. From that day on, becoming a professional superbike rider became his aim.

The first step on the road to racing bikes came when he swapped a radio-controlled car for a bike, which he took scrambling, enjoying immediate success.

After impressing on the scrambling scene, the step up to road racing failed to materialise and the superbike dream appeared to have stalled. However, it was during his time working for London Underground that he decided to go it alone and buy a road race bike with funds raised from selling his cars.

"Lots of people talked about giving me a shot on a road-going bike, but it never happened," he said. "I thought if anyone is going to make this happen it's going to have to be me. I had two track days under my belt before my first race in 1996 at Brands Hatch, which I ended up winning. I thought 'blimey I'm actually all right at this'. I had a big wrist injury later that year, but from there on I got really lucky and away we went."

Pictures: GSE RACING

CHAMPION FEELING: Shane Byrne is a two-time British Superbike title holder

Byrne rapidly rose through the ranks but his big break came in 1999, when he stepped up to the BSB with the Harris Kawasaki team. The following season was plagued by injuries, which included being run over, before a liver tear ended his season prematurely. Success returned in 2001 when he became privateer champion and his reward was a factory ride with Renegade Ducati.

His stock rose after securing his first BSB crown in 2003, which included winning 12 races and a sensational double as a wildcard rider in the British round of the World Superbike Championship at Brands Hatch, arguably his greatest achievement.

Off the back of his first BSB crown Byrne moved into unchartered waters by agreeing a deal with Aprilia to race against Valentino Rossi in MotoGP. Results proved to be a struggle and looking back, he admits a second campaign in the series was a mistake.

He said: "The MotoGP thing was really strange and people were talking about it before I even knew. Signing for Aprilia definitely wasn't a mistake, it was a good move. I had some strong rides and the organisers of MotoGP were keen for me to stay.

"I hung around and at the time I had some good offers from factory World Superbike teams for 2005, but with everybody in MotoGP keen for me to stay, I hung about and I ended up getting the KTM deal.

"This turned out to be an absolute disaster as they pulled their backing from it halfway through the season. I guess you could say 2005 was a mistake."

After a largely disappointing two years, he returned to the BSB in 2006 and two years later the second crown arrived. Back onboard a Ducati with Ashford-based GSE racing he stormed to the title.

Byrne was handed a second crack on the world stage with Althea Racing, but felt he was let down by machinery once again.

Determined to show his class once again, he has joined HM Plant Honda for the 2011 BSB campaign and is convinced he has a lot left in the tank.

He said: "The target is to win another title first off and see where that takes us. I'm 34 now but Max Biaggi has won the world title aged 40, so it is far from over.

"The support from the fans over the years has been fantastic and one of the things I'm most looking forward to is riding around Brands Hatch."

Ashford now United

ASHFORD United have been granted affiliation to the Kent FA as their reformation process continues.

The club, formerly known as Ashford Town, resigned from the Ryman League last summer following a bitter legal dispute between two owners, and have been trying to reform ever since.

In order to make a return to senior football next season, the club has changed its name and identity to Ashford United as requested by the Kent FA. Affiliation was granted following the move last week.

The club will host a meeting at Homelands Stadium on February 5 to allow fans to put questions to United's new committee.

Cycle park on track

CONSTRUCTION work at the north Kent Cyclopark will officially be launched this week by the Government's Minister for Sport and the Olympics.

Hugh Robertson, who also serves as MP for Faversham and Mid Kent, will visit the multi-sport site between Dartford and Gravesend at 9.30am on Friday.

The cyclopark, which is expected to attract 100,000 cyclists and other users once completed, will also offer one of the south-east's largest venues for running and extreme sports.

Dixon's in control

KENT driver James Dixon is gearing up for another shot at the Renault Clio Cup after sealing a deal to stay with Total Control Racing.

Picture: JAKOB EBREY PHOTOGRAPHY

Born in Margate, the 20-year-old claimed two wins at Brands Hatch in his maiden season en route to a sixth-placed finish in the drivers' standings.

Dixon is one of the title favourites ahead of the 2011 championship, which gets under way at Brands on April 2, and he knows another strong season could see him step up to the British Touring Car Championship.

He said: "The desire to win within the team is so strong and settling for second is non-existent. The aim is to take the title this year and I am feeling confident."

Cricket AGM date

THE NEW cricket season draws into view this week as the Kent Cricket League holds its Annual General Meeting at Hartley Country Club.

With all 58 clubs expected to be represented at Wednesday's meeting, league bosses will consider proposed changes to the playing conditions for each division.

League chairman Nigel Keess is among the officers standing for re-election while there are 12 clubs due to renew their Clubmark accreditation in 2011.

Tunbridge Wells get the season under way when they host Sibton Park in the Premier Division on May 2.

KENT PULL OFF DEAL TO KEEP HOLD OF COLES

Seamer tells of relief at putting pen to paper on new deal at St Lawrence

EXCLUSIVE

By **GLENN PEARSON**

PROMISING Kent all-rounder Matt Coles has spoken of his delight at being offered a long-term contract by the county.

The 20-year-old signed a three-year deal this week to put an end to speculation about his future after weeks of negotiations between the club and his agent. Coles, who was out of contract this year, was a player Kent identified as one to keep after the seamer forced his way into the side last summer, going on to take 27 wickets in his first season in county cricket.

Speaking exclusively to Kent on Sunday from Perth in Australia, where he is spending the winter preparing for the coming season, Coles said he was happy to have secured his future with the county.

"I'm very pleased with the outcome and I'm looking forward to spending more time at the club and doing well for Kent and the supporters," he said. "I'm glad it's all sorted now.

"The length of contract is good because I know where I will be for the next three years rather than a one or two year extension, so it's good for me and the club, as I am a homegrown player.

"It has taken a bit of time but it's been worth it for the outcome and that's the main thing. I can now get back to enjoying my cricket and doing well for Kent."

Wrapping up the Coles deal is a good spot of business by the club, who now hope the likes of Sam Northeast, Joe Denly and Alex Blake, who are yet to sign extensions offered by the club, will follow his lead.

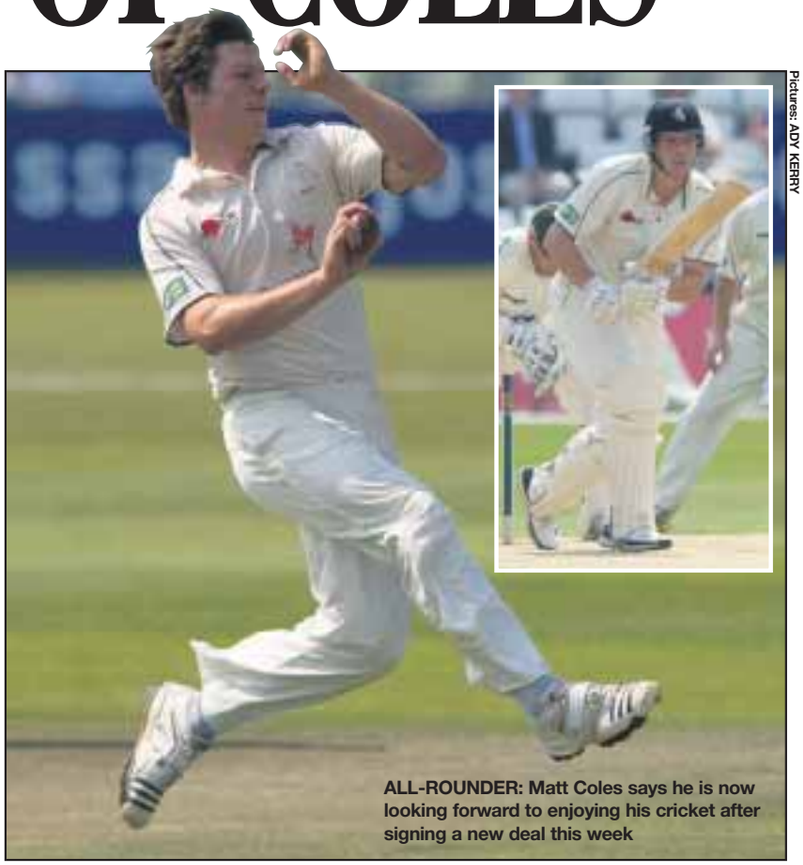
After a slow start to his first full winter away from Kent, Coles is beginning to find his feet playing for Perth Cricket Club. He has been working alongside former Australian Test cricketer Bruce Reid, who is the club's bowling coach, and has picked up tips from the likes of ex-England seamer Richard Johnson, now bowling coach for the England Lions, when they arrived for practice in Perth at the end of last year.

"I've started doing a lot better after Christmas and it's been good as I look to build up towards going back and playing for Kent," he said. "I didn't really start off too well, it took me a little while to get used to the wickets as I needed to bowl a little bit fuller, but now I seem to have sorted that out and it's coming along nicely.

"It's my first winter away – it's been expensive because of the exchange rate, but other than that it's been a great experience. It's been good for me to be away and a chance to get a bit more life experience and that's worked really well.

"I've learned so much from a lot of people such as Bruce Reid and I think that can only do me good.

"I am now looking forward to getting back to Kent and starting the season well. I want to help us get off to a good start in the championship and the aim is to get in the side and then keep my place."



Pictures: ADY KERRY

ALL-ROUNDER: Matt Coles says he is now looking forward to enjoying his cricket after signing a new deal this week

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Gills not shopping in transfer window

THE TRANSFER window is likely to close on Monday night with no activity at Gillingham as assistant manager Ian Hendon insists the club are not interested in "quick fixes", ***writes David Pritchard.***

If nothing happens the Gills will be in the minority in League Two, with 19 of the other 23 clubs recruiting players over the last month. Most additions have been loan signings, with half the division bringing in players from Premier League or Championship clubs.

The quality they can bring was shown by Chesterfield at Priestfield on Tuesday night, where Manchester City's Javan Vidal set up both goals from Deane Smalley, on loan from Oldham Athletic, in the 2-0 win for the league leaders.

Despite watching most of the sides around the Gills improve their squads in the last month, Hendon says they are not worried.

He said: "All I'd say to that is look at how Rotherham's results have been of late, they're not on a very good run and are probably looking for a quick-fix.

"We're certainly not doing that, we have a lot of faith in the players and belief that what we've got here is going well and we're quite happy with that."

Picture: ADY KERRY

BACK-UP: But Gills look unlikely to add cover for the likes of Cody McDonald

While Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler will be happy to get through the month with his squad still intact, it was hoped an experienced striker could be added as a back-up to first-choice pairing Cody McDonald and Adebayo Akinfenwa.

Ultimately a lack of room in the playing budget, partly due to the use of several loan signings brought in during the first-half of the season, made any move very unlikely.

It leaves Gillingham heading into the final three months of the season hoping their top two strikers will avoid injury and suspension. But if one, or both, become unavailable it may not spell disaster, with Hendon feeling in that scenario there may be some scope to dip into the loan market, which reopens next month.

He said: "We can get loan players until the end of March so if we do have any problems or we feel we're short somewhere, it would be time to knock on the chairman's door and ask him, but at the moment we're not in a rush to get anyone in."

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